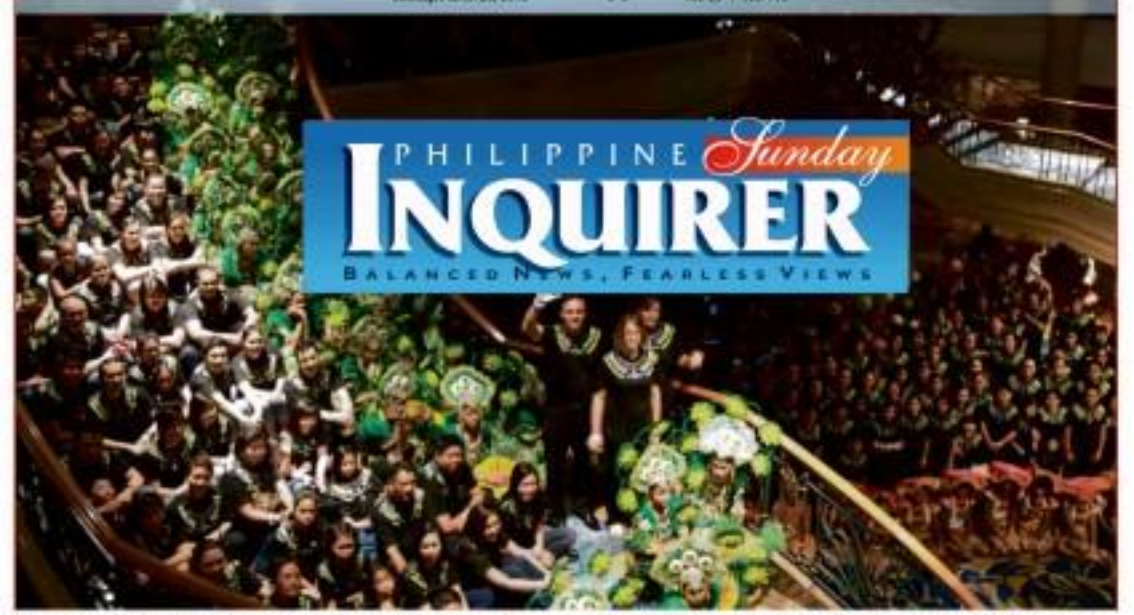
Sunday, March 28, 2010 ★★ Vol. 25 / No. 118

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT? Maisat Shangri-La dancers in the darkness during Earth Hour on Saturday night to shed light on the global commitment to spread the urgent message of climate change to the local community. Joining the Mardi Gras-style parade are 300 hotel executives, employees and their families plus 150 volunteer dancers from the University of Makati and Gen. Pio del Pilar National High School. CONTINUED P.A11

Envoy's relief stirs rage

GMA's 'midnight' appointee lacks nod of CA, host country

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE SUDDEN REMOVAL OF the Philippine ambassador to Germany may have more to do with bilateral relations between the two countries than being another case of an unconstitutional "midnight" appointment by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A former diplomat raised this possibility yesterday in the wake of the relief of career Ambassador Delia Domingo-Albert, who has been replaced by 47-year-old businessman Alfonso Yuchengco.

The move sent shock waves within the Department of Foreign Affairs. Ironically, Albert learned about her removal last week when she flew to Manila to receive the "Most Outstanding Filipino Woman in Global Diplomacy" award from no less than the President herself.

"It's really unusual because we normally give our officers a 60-day recall notice so he or she can do the traditional farewell calls and also officially notify the foreign office of the host country," a senior DFA official told the INQUIRER. CONTINUED P.A7

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

Gibo's secret weapon; Noy's own 'hawi' boy

LAKAS-KAMPI-CMD STANDARD-BEARER Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro had a few drinks while pressing the flesh recently at Gate 54 of the Parola Compound in Port Area, Manila.

To get to the site of his campaign rally, Teodoro had to negotiate narrow streets and alleys crowded with carinderia stores, sari-sari eateries, bilihan tabletos—and open boulevard were used and gin.

Someone offered him a tagay (swig), he took one, and then some more.

By the time he got to the makeshift stage, he had taken four drinks (all bottoms-up), and his face was red in the scorching afternoon sun.

Later on his way out, Teodoro obliged when offered another tagay by the menfolk of Gate 54. Amid drunken cheers, he took the "for-the-road" tipple straight.

But he was apparently not too drunk to forget what the Inquirer earlier reported—he still had his fair complexion despite the months-old campaign.

"Why did you write naman that I'm not sun-burned?" he asked the Inquirer.

"Look," he said, showing off his tanned arms after his last tagay. "This GIBO'S A2

BLESSED PALMS A child plays among the fronds for sale on the faithful for today's Palm Sunday marking the start of Christendom's most Holy Week. Palm Sunday celebrates the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem prior to his passion and death.

Sonia Roco, take 2: Still hot on education

By Philip C. Tubeza

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE SONIA ROCO was once offered a "menu" of votes that she could pay for in order to win.

At the height of the 2007 senatorial campaign in Mindanao, her camp was approached by a group of men who claimed that they could rig the elections in their province, for a price.

"They had a menu for how much [a candidate would have to pay for needed votes]," Roco told Inquirer editors and reporters in a recent interview. "For example, if you are a senatorial candidate and you pay this much, you would get this many votes."

But Roco, an educator and former student activist, ignored the men bearing gifts with a price tag—and lost that Senate election.

Three years later, the widow of the late senator and presidential candidate Raul Roco has again taken the winding road SONIA A2

SONIA ROCO: Maybe this campaign would open the minds of our people.

Bar topnotchers: Balance, prayer, scholarship did it

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE THE TOUGHER TESTS DUE to a longer set of questions per subject, those who topped the 2009 bar exams delivered as they were expected to by their families and schools.

As valedictorian of Class 2009, Senator Paul Yebra was no doubt San Beda College's best bet to give the school its seventh bar topnatcher.

The eldest son of retired police director Efren Yebra and college dean Irene Yebra became SBC's first bar topnatcher in 42 years since fellow alumnus Rodolfo Robles topped the 1967 exams, according to the San Beda College of Law website.

Yebra, with an average rating of 84.80 percent, ranked first among the 1,451 examinees who passed the 2009 bar exams out of the 3,903 who took BAR A7

Good heavens, Jamby for Pastor Q

By Jerry E. Esplanada

AS FAR AS SHE IS CONCERNED, THE TWO RELIgious leaders are heavens apart.

Sen. Maria Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, an independent presidential candidate in the May polls, yesterday told the Inquirer that she would be seeking "more guidance" from Pastor Apolo Quiboloy, who has "the humility of Jesus," unlike Bro. Mike Velarde, who has "the arrogance of an emperor."

On April 25, Madrigal plans to fly to Davao City to personally greet Quiboloy, leader of the Kingdom of GOOD HEAVENS A2

SEN. PIA CAYETANO: The faint-hearted need not apply

Pia: Waiting to be found by Mr. Right

By Nikko Dizon

PIA CAYETANO STILL DREAMS OF FALLING IN love.

In between seeking a fresh mandate in the Senate, fighting for women empowerment, being a single mother to two young daughters, and running marathons, the reelectionist senator hopes to find, actually prefer to be "found" by Mr. Right.

"My personal dream is to be romantically involved," Cayetano told the Inquirer on Tuesday PIA A6

• **Tom Jones** concert postponed; new date to be announced later • Head of RP's premier art school sued for alleged failure to stop hazing rites for freshmen NEWS • **2 big wins** for Obama: Historic health care bill at home and new arms treaty with Russia WORLD • **All about Angelo,** Buboy andShine ENTERTAINMENT • **Wanna diet?** Don't: 4 tips to make you change your eating habits for good • 15 food myths that might actually add on the pounds SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE • **GMA's** 'midnight appointments' terrorize culture scene SUNDAY LIFESTYLE

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Hazing at art school draws lawsuit

Film director files complaint after daughter receives 'cruel' welcome

By Marlon Ramos

IT WAS TO HAVE BEEN A ROUSING WELCOME by senior students for the incoming scholars of the famous Philippine High School for the Arts (PHSA) in Los Baños, Laguna.

When the affair ended, the newcomers wanted nothing but to leave the country's only boarding school for artistically gifted students.

Playwright-director Rodolfo Jr. Ilagan yesterday disclosed the purported hazing of the school's new students. He accused PHSA executive director Fernando Josef of tolerating the "cruel actions" done by senior students on his 13-year-old daughter Drew Basilan and five others.

Ilagan has asked the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to order Josef to pay his family P1.1 million in moral and exemplary damages for the latter's purported failure to act decisively on the matter.

Ilagan told the Inquirer that he was deeply hurt by Josef's inaction.

"He was my best friend. In times of urgent happened, we have met and talked with or even each other for the past several months," Ilagan said on the phone.

"I have agonized over this. Despite the enormous of sense of my friendship, I had to do something because we see the aggrieved party," he said.

How it happened

In a complaint dated March 23, Ilagan narrated his daughter's experiences barely a week after she started attending classes at the school in a suburban area in Laguna.

The wait how he recounted for turn of events:

On the afternoon of June 3, 2009, senior and senior PHSA students, led by Josef, allegedly drove Drew and five of her classmates to proceed to the Normal Arts Center Theater with handkerchiefs and worn clothes.

When Drew et al. were in the theater, at least 15 senior students blindfolded them with their handkerchiefs and began cursing them.

They were subjected to various kinds of humiliation and "senseless rules were poised against their body."

"The initiations or hazing rites were intended by physical violence like hair pulling, violent shoving, and punching of body parts, or one point [Drew's] bluffed accidentally fell off when her hair was pulled by the upper class students," Ilagan said.

Ilagan, the creators of "The Five Grotesqueries Story" and author of "Dakot Grotesques," both critically acclaimed films, said he discovered Drew's sealed only after a young man from Bohol confided that he decided to quit the PHSA after undergoing initiation.

"It was only then that my daughter admitted that she, too, was subjected to such a traumatic experience," he said in the phone.

In his complaint, Ilagan said Josef should be held liable for the physical and mental bonding that his daughter and her classmates suffered.

"[A]s the executive director, [Josef] clearly did not observe the diligence of a good father of a family to prevent such serious damage to [Drew] and several other hapless first year students," he said, adding:

School policies

"The detailed boarding school subordinate—the conduct of initiation or hazing rites by upper class students against first year students—has been allowed and tolerated to exist by [Josef]."

Ilagan also assailed Josef for overruling the school board's decision to suspend all those involved in the initiation for 10 days.

Contacted for comment, Josef said he was only doing his job.

"I would have wanted to help and talk to his daughter, but her mother said she was not ready. I just followed the school's policies," Josef said.

"I'm really very sorry if I hurt [Ilagan]. I was also hurt by this. I just chose the interests of the bigger community which I serve," he said.

Josef said he would respond to Ilagan's complaint and that he was ready to quit his post to give way for a management investigation.

"I'm not the kind to run away if I did something wrong," he said.

Josef defended his action on the suspension, saying he did not want to add to the burden of the students whose families were affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

"It was a tough decision to make. I may be wrong, but don't have I can it," he said.

Laryngitis forces Tom Jones to reset concert

By Philbik Concepcion
Entertainment

TOM JONES HAS LOOKED forward to catching the veteran performer's concert tonight at Araneta Coliseum will have to wait for a new date to be announced—after the British singer was ordered to postpone the show due to acute laryngitis.

Concert promoter Ramon de Guia of Ovation Productions told the Inquirer Jones was performing in Singapore and that Jones, 69, was at the Compass Ballroom of Resorts World Sentosa singing "Give a Little Love" from his new album "Spirit of" when his voice cracked on the song's last few notes.

"I have a problem," said Jones as he cleared his throat. "Honestly, I don't think I can carry on. I hope we can do this again soon."

The report said Jones walked off the stage.

"At first, the nearly full-house audience of about 4,000 thought it was a stunt. Jones cleared his throat and sang the chorus of his hit song, 'Delilah,' literally but became silent the lights came on and confusion followed. It took about 15 minutes more before the organizers announced that the concert had been postponed," the report said.

De Guia said tickets to Jones' Araneta gig were sold out. The Big Boom reportedly packs more than 15,000 people for concerts. De Guia advised all ticket-holders to hang on to their tickets pending announcement of a new show date.

Jones is currently on tour. The last time he was treated to stop singing was in the 1970s, when he had to undergo an operation to take out nodules in his throat. "Thank God I was able to regain my voice after that," he told the Inquirer in a recent interview.

Cebu Garcias fall in line behind Gibo

By TJ Burgonio

MIGAG, CEBU—Gov. Gwen Garcia and other members of Cebu's prominent Garcia political clan formally endorsed the candidacy of administration standard-bearer Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro in a huge rally here Friday night, scoring a de fry him after they did for President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004.

With firmly unequivocally we stand behind Gilbert Teodoro," said Garcia in her speech at the packed Dimdalo Macapagal Sports and Cultural Center.

She described Teodoro of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD party as the "most competent, the most qualified and, above all, the inspirational leader that we need."

The presence of the governor's father Deputy Speaker Pablo Garcia Sr., brother Rep. Pablo John Garcia and Rep. Member Tabuelingan at the rally drawn speculation that Cebu was divided in its support for Teodoro.

The three, along with Representatives Eduardo Gullas and Simeon Yuson Pung, reportedly met with Nacionalista Party presidential candidate Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. last Wednesday but Governor Garcia intervened to stop a possible defection to the NP camp.

But Cebu, however, failed to endorse Teodoro's running mate Nito Marcoleta and senatorial candidates Silvestre Bello III, Raul Lambino and Roy Langit.

It endorsed for senator Ramon Mitra Jr., Lito Lapid and Tessie Aquino.

The following day the party in a press conference endorsed Sen. Loren Legarda of the Nacionalista Party, JdV, Gordon and Villar's running mate for vice president.

For senator, it picked Nicanor Soto II, Ferdinand Alonzo Jr., Abel Tormis, Gilbert Remulla, Juan Ponce Enrile, Reggie Tamala, Ed Tend, and Franklin Drilon, all of different parties.

It withheld its endorsement of Sultan Hamid after he failed to show up.

"A candidate who stands head and shoulders above all other presidential candidates, physically and intellectually, but most importantly who shares brightest than the rest of them," Pablo Jr. said of Teodoro in his speech.

Pablo John observed the award, which started in this century through the rally to elect the candidate "who can lead the division, who can make the Philippines one Philippines."

In an earlier briefing, Governor Garcia told reporters that Cebu would deliver the votes for Teodoro.

"We will do our very very best to deliver. We do not wish to sound presumptuous but never before has the province been so united, and there has never been a political party that strong in the province."

Cory country? Not Cebu, says Serge's sis

MANDAUE CITY—Former Sen. Sergio "Serge" Osmeña III may have spoken too soon. His sister, Governor Osmeña, doubts his claim Gibo is still "Cory country."

Osmeña III is running for senator with the Liberal Party led by standard-bearer Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, son of the late President Cory Aquino.

"Cory's country. I don't think so," Governor Osmeña told reporters yesterday during a reception for administration presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro.

Calling it "GMA country" would be more appropriate because President Macapagal-Arroyo "has done a lot for Cebu," she said.

Osmeña III had claimed Aquino had a grip on Cebu's voters because his mother remained popular with Cebuanos.

Osmeña, the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD's candidate for mayor of Cebu City, told voters not to equate Aquino with his late mother.

"Cory was different. Noynoy is not Cory. And people should get that [for] their heads. No, I tell unto you: Our Cory was Cory and Noynoy is not Cory," she said. JJ Burgonio

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STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES CONDEMNING THE BOMBING INCIDENTS IN ILOILO CITY

The two incidents of bombing in Iloilo City that occurred in the past weeks are grim reminders once again of the hatred and violence that has plagued the country.

The League of Cities of the Philippines strongly condemns these barbaric acts and calls on the Philippine National Police to act with urgency and determination to solve these criminal activities.

We call upon the authorities to swiftly arrest all those involved in these attacks including those who have been part of the plotting. We further call on any member of the community that may have information on the bombings to come forward so that these "terrorists" may face the full might of the law.

We extend our sympathies to those who have been injured and victimized by these attacks. These and all other acts of violence certainly do not deserve a place in a civilized society.

'Prepare, give, reflect'

Below is the pastoral letter of Archbishop of Jaro Angelito R. Lampon to be read in all churches today to mark Palm Sunday, which is also Diocesan Sunday and Caritas Sunday.—Ed.]

MY DEAR BROTHERS and sisters in Christ,

After Ondoy, Pepeng, Frank, Emong and Basyang, I thought that I have already seen it all. But I was wrong. Because after Ondoy, Pepeng, Frank, Emong and Basyang, I have seen Yolanda.

Yolanda is the name of the typhoon that hit the Visayas last November 8. Considered as the strongest typhoon in the world in recorded history, Yolanda left in its wake thousands of dead bodies, millions of displaced persons, and billions of pesos worth of crops, plants and trees have died up.

We have to prepare. We have to be prepared. We have to prepare. It is time to change. Really change.

The Palm Sunday phrase supports the special day Aspen collection in your parishes. The will go to the Caritas Diocesan Preparedness Fund Drive. The fund is used to relieve from the sufferings of the victims of calamities, such as typhoons, earthquakes, fires, floods, landslides, etc. Most of the victims of these calamities are the poor.

Let us not be afraid to call it as it is. Let us not believe. Mother Nature is revenging to what we have done to her. Last year, storms Ondoy and Pepeng ravaged Luzon. These year two powerful, super typhoons Yolanda and Zoraida hit Visayas. Only hundreds of thousands of lives were lost. How sad now, we are again praying for rain, as billions of pesos worth of crops, plants and trees have died up.

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185 of 187 party-list groups submit nominees' names to Comelec

By Kristine L. Alave

A TOTAL OF 185 party-list organizations of 187 accredited by the Commission on Elections submitted the names of their nominees to the Comelec at the end of the filing period Friday night.

The nominees included President Macapagal-Arroyo's cousins and close political allies.

The Alliance for Labor and Employment (ALE) Sen. Edwin M.B. de Leon, 9th Aryayo's first cousin, for its second nominee. De Leon, according to the Office of the President's website, had served as a special economic bl Adviser.

1-Utak, a group that claims to work for the transport sector, submitted the name of former Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, the Comelec said.

Reyes, who served in various key positions in the Arroyo administration, announced his resignation from the energy department only hours before the group submitted his name.

Reyes is joined by Tiger Shrubshin, a former board member of the Land Transportation and Franchising Regulatory Board as the second 1-Utak nominee.

Included in the last minute filings were former undersecretary Mapagu, **secretary** of happ party-list, **Evangeline Pelpuan**, ards of retired military general **Jovito** Palparan, has joined the group The Tree Matters Coalition.

Jovito Palparan, accused of massive human rights violations and extrajudicial killings of militant workers, is running **he** senator as an independent candidate.

Alberto Pacquiao, brother of boxing icon and congressional catchphrase Manny Pacquiao, is the fourth nominee of Pwersa ng Masang ng ating.

Party-list groups were allowed to join the political system to let members of **underrepresented** and marginalized sectors participate in setting legislation.

Poll watchdogs and Comelec officials have admitted the party-list system has **been** flawed, allowing people to form groups that are the least marginalized to get people into Congress.

Watching Rosales Inga expressed **re**signation at some party-list nominees whom it described as political-turned-lawyers.

"From the initial list of nominees, we can certainly say the party-list system is being, **basically** abused by politicians, big business interests, high-ranking military officials and Arroyo allies," said Rosales Inga economist Benjamin M. Reyes II.

The President's son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, is a nominee of Ang Galing Pinoy which represents security guards. Her sister-in-law, Maribel Arroyo, was a nominee of a group that represents **micro entrepreneurs**, like "kuhol" vendors.

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GLX CVT	101,000	10,778	10,077	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Mitsubishi Fuzion

Model	DP	Monthly Amortization					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
GLX	139,000	15,444	15,444	15,444	15,444	15,444	15,444
GLX Sport	143,000	15,889	15,889	15,889	15,889	15,889	15,889

Mitsubishi Adventure

Model	DP	Monthly Amortization					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
GLX	99,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
GLS Sport	119,000	13,222	13,222	13,222	13,222	13,222	13,222
Semi-Spor	127,000	14,111	14,111	14,111	14,111	14,111	14,111

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Sonia Roco, take 2: Still hot on education

From page A1

that the Roper would finally lost her in the Senate.

This year around, "Senig Ganz," as his fellow LP remodeled her Martin Romulo finally with her, hopes that the public element he change that has catapulted Sen. Senigue "Noynoy" Aquino II to the forefront of the presidential race would also benefit reformists like herself, who are usually dismissed as having little chance of winning in the rough-and-tumble of Philippine politics.

If education costly, try ignorance

But if she does make it to the Senate, Roco said she would give priority to improving education and health care.

"If you think education is costly, try ignorance," she said, adding that the government was not investing enough in education.

"I would think many of the existing problems as well and really stem from [our] illiteracy because if [the voters] are educated, they would not be voting by the people who are [now], armed had who are not doing the scientific way good. So, education is the way to make our people more than eyes," she said.

Roco said a big part of the problem was corruption, which she said was eating up to 35 percent of the annual national budget.

"What we're saying is, if you do not get the services that you deserve, the money intended for that was already pocketed by somebody else," she said.

"Studies have shown that 35 percent of what goes in the budget is lost to corruption. Imagine what you can do with that 35 percent for education, health care and social services that badly need improvement."

Time for change

"I didn't want to run again after my experience last time. Because from that experience, I knew money would again be important. If it were only about money, I would not have run," said Roco, who is running under Aquino's Liberal Party (LP).

"But then, over and above those money matters is the mission that maybe this campaign of Noynoy, which I do also did not play, would finally open the minds of our people that this is really the time for change," she said.

And so, if to govern last 9 to 10 the 9-9 joins, Roco said she was running on a budget even smaller than what she had when she first took a shot at the Senate under the banner of the Erasmo Depoisition in 2007.

"This time around, I said I would not compete the way I did in 2007, when I felt that I had to compete to get ads. And you know, I was then fighting the likes of [administration-anointed] machinery Prospero] Pichay and all those big people who were spending millions of pesos to get the ads that they needed," she said, adding:

"I would say that I had a very little budget last time. And it was even more than what I have now."

Credentials

The candidate, born to then Commissioner Pablo Malasarte and Print Cecilia of Bohol, had early on shown signs of leadership and the academic acumen that would help her later in her career.

She graduated magna cum laude from St. Joseph's College in Quezon City with degrees in liberal arts and education.

She received the Most Outstanding Student of the Philippines award in 1964 and the Cardinal Santos Leadership Award after serving as a leader of the Student Catholic Action and the Federation of Union of Students of the Philippines.

As a lover of theater and the arts, she trained in speech and drama in London and, when she returned to the Philippines, taught and acted in, directed and produced musicals and plays.

Roco earned a master's degree in counseling psychology and social psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University. She is a columnist of Our School, a course for early childhood education of the Ateneo Psychology Department.

Faith

She also took up child development classes at the University of the Philippines and business courses at the Asian Institute of Management.

When the July 1990 killer earthquake struck, Roco was attending a seminar at the Hotel Heverly in Baguio City when the ground shook and the hotel collapsed.

With faith and prayers, she was rescued after being trapped under the rubble for 32 hours. She was found with her hand on a dead man's chest.

It is this same faith that has kept her going in the current election campaign although she is lagging in the surveys.

Roco said she was depending on not just on the LP—which only recently produced TV ads for its senatorial candidates—but also on the perceived votes of voters thanks for change against massive corruption in government.

"I really have very little to show for campaign materials. I have less than, each, hardly any steps," Roco said.

"So, when people ask, 'Where are your posters?,' I say, 'Just word of mouth,'" she said.

Hope

But Roco said there was hope for a reformers like herself.

She pointed out that the still decisive Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey last January 25-28 showed that Aquino's campaign seems to be gaining momentum.

The data showed that the public response to Aquino's campaign seems still over the country had been overwhelmingly positive.

"Tonight, I just come out of there because and wait for hours. The poor guy missed even set in three or four hours because he became disappoint the people.

"For example, in Bicol, I heard some say to him: 'Ayaw ko ng Erap (You are the son of the 1986 Edsa People Power hero and former President Joseph Estrada). There was this old woman who was saying while saying, 'Ayaw ng Erap (I don't like Erap).' This is for the sake of Aquino's mother Cory. It's just here. He just gives hope."

But while Aquino may have a message that is gaining traction, actually winning the elections is a different matter. And Roco has her doubts about the automated polls on May 10.

Doubts about automation

"The first in the history are so small—just 10 points. You will need to really look at it closely. And if you're not used to shading, a lot of mistakes could happen," she said.

Roco also warned that if it took one voter 1 minute to put the automated machine, it would take 10 hours to get enough time for all the voters to cast their ballots in each precinct.

She said such precincts would have 1,000 registered voters. At an expected voter turnout of 80 percent, 800 would actually show up to vote.

"But if it takes one voter one minute and a vote would take about one minute to vote—so 60 voters in one hour, or 600 voters in 10 hours. And that's if everything will go smoothly," Roco said.

"So what will happen to 200 who will be [turned away]? Imagine the anger. What will happen? Is Commission on Elections] do? So, it's really scary," she said.

"And then, we have three [poster contest]. Are they already preparing us? You cannot help but think of all the things they have to do to make the elections fail."

Such a pity

Roco said she would also push for accounting of intelligence and other discretionary funds of government agencies.

Her husband said to cap that we say it: It is time for a woman to be elected as or be [president," she said.

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TO SEE IS TO BE!

Pia: Waiting to be found by Mr. Right

From page A1

night, as if it was the most natural thing to say for a lawmaker who has achieved quite a lot in his first six years in office.

Pretty and engaging, she said she had actually shown up a "wish list" for her ideal man on 2008 in one of those night-where she couldn't fall asleep even after staying late at work.

"I want this person to find me because it's tiring to find someone ... and obviously, I have not been found," Cayetano, who turned 44 on March 22, said with a hearty laugh.

For the last six years since she became a senator, she has been spared from her husband. Author "Bandit" Sebastian, corporate lawyer and mountain climber. They have two young daughters. Their only wedded of a new decision in 2001 when he was 9 months old.

Two years since saying the words the on her mobile phone, Cayetano decided to share it—unless sheepishly—with people who wouldn't mind spreading the word.

She reminded them that Mr. Right didn't have to possess all the criteria she had on the LP—which only recently produced TV ads for its senatorial candidates—but also on the perceived votes of voters thanks for change against massive corruption in government.

"I really have very little to show for campaign materials. I have less than, each, hardly any steps," Roco said.

"So, when people ask, 'Where are your posters?,' I say, 'Just word of mouth,'" she said.

Hope

But Roco said there was hope for a reformers like herself.

She pointed out that the still decisive Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey last January 25-28 showed that Aquino's campaign seems still over the country had been overwhelmingly positive.

"Tonight, I just come out of there because and wait for hours. The poor guy missed even set in three or four hours because he became disappoint the people.

"For example, in Bicol, I heard some say to him: 'Ayaw ko ng Erap (You are the son of the 1986 Edsa People Power hero and former President Joseph Estrada). There was this old woman who was saying while saying, 'Ayaw ng Erap (I don't like Erap).' This is for the sake of Aquino's mother Cory. It's just here. He just gives hope."

But while Aquino may have a message that is gaining traction, actually winning the elections is a different matter. And Roco has her doubts about the automated polls on May 10.

Doubts about automation

"The first in the history are so small—just 10 points. You will need to really look at it closely. And if you're not used to shading, a lot of mistakes could happen," she said.

Roco also warned that if it took one voter 1 minute to put the automated machine, it would take 10 hours to get enough time for all the voters to cast their ballots in each precinct.

She said such precincts would have 1,000 registered voters. At an expected voter turnout of 80 percent, 800 would actually show up to vote.

"But if it takes one voter one minute and a vote would take about one minute to vote—so 60 voters in one hour, or 600 voters in 10 hours. And that's if everything will go smoothly," Roco said.

"So what will happen to 200 who will be [turned away]? Imagine the anger. What will happen? Is Commission on Elections] do? So, it's really scary," she said.

"And then, we have three [poster contest]. Are they already preparing us? You cannot help but think of all the things they have to do to make the elections fail."

Such a pity

Roco said she would also push for accounting of intelligence and other discretionary funds of government agencies.

Her husband said to cap that we say it: It is time for a woman to be elected as or be [president," she said.

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Envoy's relief stirs rage in foreign service union

From page A1

sources yesterday. The official asked not to be named because of the sensitive nature of the matter and a lack of authority to discuss it publicly.

Said Assistant Foreign Secretary Vicky Bataclan, the president of the Union of Foreign Service Officers:

"Our beef is that Ms Alfonso Yuchengco's appointment is void. There is no Commission on Appointments (CA) as creation by commission, which is [needed for] the necessary steps, like requesting his agrement from the German government.

In any case, all political ambassadors are coterminous with [the President]. This is, then, a useless continuation in a nonexistent CA, almost void ab initio, if not unconstitutional."

Bataclan added that by operation of law, all political ambassadors should be out of their countries of assignment on or before June 30.

No respect for int'l protocol

Jose Apolinario Lozada—a former envoy to Austria, Dubai and the Holy See—said the case was more than just a last-minute appointment made by Mr Arroyo, whose term ends on June 30.

"Is there something wrong with our bilateral relations with Germany that the President had to replace Delia Albert immediately?" he said in a phone interview. "Why the haste?"

Lozada, who is running for senator under Joseph Estrada's Puwera ng Masang Pilipino, added: "Besides the matter of midnight appointments, there is the more important issue concerning our international reputation, that it seems we have no respect for international protocol and the norms of service of foreign service officers."

But Malacañang yesterday denied that there was anything irregular about the removal of Albert.

"No, it wasn't hasty," Gary Olivar, a deputy spokesperson of Ms Arroyo, said without elaborating.

Either-or

Lozada said the removal could either mean that Albert "did something wrong," or that Germany might have done something that did not sit well with Manila.

"Domestically, it's OK for us to change our people," he said. "But in the international community where we are a small player, it's not."

On top of the 60-day recall notice, Lozada said an envoy who was about to be relieved was usually told about it 30 days in advance.

Political appointee

The senior DFA official noted that "it's not the practice of the DFA to dispatch an ambassador until two things have occurred."

Like Bataclan, he pointed out that a new envoy first had to be cleared by the CA and accepted by the foreign government.

He said both requirements were missing in the case of Yuchengco's appointment, which he described as "problematic at this time."

But when asked if the case president could end up settling the matter of Yuchengco's appointment, he said: "That's a possibility."

Still, the official said Albert was not easily irreplaceable.

"She is a political appointee because she is sixty years the retirement age," the official said.

"She serves at the pleasure of the President and she is available at any time. As a political proposition, political appointees, like Cabinet members, are coterminous with the appointing authority. So she can only stay there, at most, up to June 30."

IN THE KNOW

Constitution bans presidential appointments 2 months before next election

SECTION 15 OF ARTICLE VII OF THE 1987 Constitution states: "Two months immediately before the next presidential election and up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except temporary appointments to executive positions when continued vacancies therein will prejudice public service or endanger public safety."

Effective March 2, appointed officials running in the May 10 elections have been considered resigned. Following a recent Supreme Court ruling.

Yet other the resignations of several Cabinet officials, the following appointments in the Cabinet were made by President Macapagal-Arroyo:

- Bernardo Pendaville as agricultural secretary, replacing Arthur Yap, who is seeking a seat in the House representing Bohol's third district.
- Leandro Mendoza as executive secretary, replacing Eduardo Ermita, who is seeking a seat in the House representing Batangas' first district. (Anselmo Lumicao was appointed to replace Mendoza as transportation secretary.)
- Alberto Agra as justice secretary, replacing Agnes Devanadera, who is seeking a seat in the House representing Quezon's second district.
- Rhia Ribaya Bautista as Technical Education and Skills Development Authority director general, replacing Augusto Syjuco, who is seeking a seat in the House representing Iloilo's second district. (Bautista was transferred days later to the Office of the Press Secretary.)
- Joaquin Lagonera as budget secretary, replacing Rolando Andaya, who is seeking a seat in the House representing Camarines Sur.
- Natividad Dimen as chief presidential legal counsel, replacing Raul Gonzalez, who is running for mayor of Iloilo City. (Dimen was later appointed chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Former Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines Director Romeo Tolentino was appointed chief presidential legal counsel to replace Dimen.)
- Jose Buenio, former president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., as officer in charge of the Department of Energy, replacing Angelo Reyes, who is a member of the party-list group 1-Utak.

Other movements in the Arroyo Cabinet in March:

- Ricardo Saludo as the Arroyo's spokesperson.
- Peter Stella as member of the Monetary Board.
- Josie Lapus, replacing Perlia as undersecretary.
- Mona Valisno, replacing Lapus as education secretary.
- Arturo Lumbao as transportation undersecretary.
- Alberto Suansing, replacing Lumbao as chief of the Land Transportation Office.
- Maria Garcia as a member of the board of directors of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.
- Alfonso Cusi as director general of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.
- Melvin Matibag, replacing Cusi as general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority.

Military appointments:

- Gen. Delfin Bangit as Armed Forces chief of staff.
- Maj. Gen. Raymundo Magpayo as Army chief, replacing Bangit. Compiled by Inquirer researcher

Cañares, Inquirer reporter's pa; 67

RETIRED POLICE COLONEL ALEXIS I. Cañares Jr., father of Inquirer reporter Cathy Cañares-Perreras, died at 4:50 p.m. yesterday from cardiac complications.

He was 67.

His body lies at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel inside University Hills Subdivision, Caloocan City.

Interment will be announced later.

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Gibo's secret weapon; Noy's 'hawi' boy and other notes

From page A1

is unavailable."

* * *

Teodoro should have a secret weapon in his wife, Ticker Boy Nikki Prieto-Teodoro, a petite-cute beauty and the Philippines' first Anne Klein model.

In his campaign get-ups, shoes—dressies, T-shirt and boots—she can upstage any movie star.

But a lucky close-in bodyguard of hers came to some 60 people. And Nikki herself seems content with dishing hands with mothers and profiling children, as when she joined her husband's campaign at the slums of Pasola.

Perhaps she could take a leaf from Imelda Marcos, who commanded a following less than to so-called "great unwashed."

The story goes that the former first lady would choose herself to perfume before wading into depressed areas. This served a dual purpose: She did not smell the people around her, and her overwhelming fragrance lingered long after she had left. Ed Lomotan

FROM POLICE TO POLITICS Avelino "Sonny" Razon, former chief of the Philippine National Police, who has left at an election office as he seeks to become mayor of Manila. He opening salvo is his proclamation rally on Friday in Malabon, Tondo with his sister.

LITO LAPID'S A running to regain the mayorship of Manila, raises his hands with former President Joseph Estrada and running mate Jejo Binay to the former mayor's bailiwick in Quiapo Imran, San Andres.

'Hunk boy'

PNOY, the oldest of the seven Aquino and Tarlac president-brother Gen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and his former secretary of the budget would soon join him on the campaign trail.

Reports joked that the 220-pound Aubun, the elder son of his celebrity sister Kris, would make a good "hunk boy" for a weight-gaining bodyguard.

And the services of the young man may come cheap because he would be just fine as long as he's well fed, Aquino said.

As well, the senator said, Aubun could help out onstage by performing on impromptu sing-a-long number of his campaign jingle.

* * *

Kris Aquino seems to be raising her brother's political stars to open up about her marriage to basketball star James Yap and to promote her TV show.

Speaking before star-struck audiences in the cities of Zamboanga and Vigan, Kris recounted how despite being a basketball star, the 5'8 presidential candidate had helped her solve her marriage problems.

If he could solve a problem like Kris, she said, he could certainly solve the country's problems.

The people, being six to kids every word and doubted like dovelet into whatever the cabal of idiots had been watching his throne.

And if they would vote for his brother, she said, she would hang along her son Joshua and Bimby Aquino when he returns to their cities.

* * *

Expat-Senator Vice Mayor Erin Martinez surely spoiled the campaign appearance in Valenzuela City of Senator Aquino and his girlfriend, Councilor Shalani Soledad.

Martinez was a scene-stealer during the Friday kickoff of the local campaign—swooning he tried to squeeze himself between the lovebirds at every photo-op.

Pushing the local press aside at times, Martinez was heard telling Soledad in love-struck tone and sweet-smelling his way beside the senator in front of the cameras.

To top it off, the vice mayor with gold highlights in his hair bumped off Soledad and was seen talking Aquino in the latter soaked his nose from the stage to his waiting vehicle.

Residents were heard asking: "Who's Soledad? Kid C. Cubcangan Jr.

Kids as props

In Bacoor City recently, local organizers for Vice-candidate Poe-to-standard-bearer Sen. Manuel Roxas II pressed a group of children using his campaign jingles while awaiting his arrival at the Liberal Party mother.

The kids, all under 10 years of age, were also made to hold a huge "welcome" banner for almost 20 minutes under the sun.

When Villa finally arrived in a white Lexus MV, supporters and children rushed to greet him, ignoring the waving "choir."

The bewildered children managed to entertain them, when from the side, but a little girl was seen crying because she almost lost her slippers to the commotion.

Incidentally, Villa's hugely popular "Dugo ng Bayan" jingle is also the adopted anthem of Iloilo Boss, a party-list group claiming to be an advocate of child not vaccines, Hilario Bilgan

Roxster Dick

While campaigning on Iloilo Island in Manila's Baseco district on Tuesday, Bagatsing presidential candidate Sen. Richard Gordon received a golden figurine of a rooster from Iloilo Governor Niel Tupas III.

Gordon offered to pay for the birds but Cline insisted that it was a gift.

Kibitzy Chinese residents who had witnessed the gift giving said Gordon should consider himself blessed. The figurine of his protection against intrigue and backbiters, around and fucking cha.

Just before the Chinese New Year celebration last Feb. 14, a Chinese pronounces and Gordon may be considered the "luckiest" among the presidential candidates because the Year of the Dilend Tiger is also a good practice those born in the Year of the Rooster (1945 in Gordon's case).

* * *

Still in Baseco, Gordon looked very pleased at the various barbecue-on-a-stick served from the local fruit vendors, pastries and desserts and restaurant sweets.

Several times he had to pause in his door-to-door campaign to allow shopkeepers and porkies, bring their photo-ops.

"I will come back and hang out with Kids here," he said, smiling. "Maybe they'll give us discount."

* * *

Gordon capped his visits in Chinatown with a ride on a yellow tricycle provided by the Jun Cruz Pure Volunteers Association.

As the truck made its way along Abasto Street toward Benito Soriano, the senator turned wary of papers snag or people waiting on the sidewalks.

The presence caused a near-commotion. Vendors at the Asiapac market, for example, rushed toward the truck and left their merchandise unattended.

An old woman later complained of back pain after accepting to pick up a box of soap that landed at her feet.

Meanwhile, a younger woman wasn't exactly happy with what she got. "I was hoping they were condoms," she said.

Cathy C. Yamsuan

'This is a recording'

People who invite Ang Kapatirang Iloilo (AKI) chairman/ banner John Carlos "JC" de los Reyes to become or definite should not be upset if a party mate throws up in his plate.

After all, the los Reyes and all the other AKI candidates and members talk about the same positions on various issues, from poverty and education to healthcare and foreign policy.

"We tell organizers that if Sir JC can't make it to their event, then his opponents are, whether our vice presidential candidate Commander Chiavo Jr. or any of our senatorial slate, would call in," said Loretta Ann Rosales, a staff member of the party headquarters in Pasay City.

"They're going to say the same things and answer the questions in the same way as Sir JC," Manalang said. "It's not like in traditional political parties where the candidate for vice president or a senatorial has a position or issue that differs from that of the standard bearer."

Manalang, who prepares the candidates' daily itinerary, said this had made it easier for her to manage the schedules.

The "party stand only" policy also allows AKI candidates, despite limited funds, to split into smaller teams and cover more ground, she said. Jerome Aning

AGELESS, TIRELESS Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim poses for his video less demo at the ousted Pasay Mayoralty candidate Antonio Trillanes IV and Senator Manuel "Manny" Aquino III and his running mate, Mar Roxas II.

SIGN OF ESPINA I The Lakas sign is raised at Plaza Miranda in front of the Quiapo Church during Pinoy's Liberal Party presidential rally.

NINOY TOWN GOES FOR VILLAR & ERAP Nacionalista Party standard-bearer Manny Villar, running mate Loren Legarda and senatorial candidates Ariel Tarzan and Gilbert Remulla flash the 'Villar sign with Pilipinas Nasa! Filipinos in Quiapo, Tondo. Coexpectation is the hometown of the family of Villar's rival, Noynoy Aquino, whose kin Ashton, Bimby an Aquino Jr. Junior for the political career at empire.

Color blind

Commission on Elections spokesperson James Jimenez is taking pains not to be perceived as favoring any of the presidential candidates. And the pro-comelec reminds to his fellow sense.

Jimenez said he had taken to wearing mostly blue (though sometimes he wears pink), and has relegated castles in "political-ally-charged" colors to the back of his closet.

He once wears orange, he recalled, and was "swarmed" by people intrigued by his shirt. "You're the Comelec spokesperson. Why are you in orange?" he quoted someone to asking him.

Orangers, of course, the campaign color of the NPC's Manny Villar and Perseus ng Manang Filipinos's Joseph Estrada.

Earlier the Comelec changed the design and color of the ballots known to be used in the country's first nationwide automated elections. The original ballot was to being replaced with black planets separators, which, some say, resemble testicle balls.

And as everyone knows, yellow is the color of the LP's Noynoy Aquino. Leila Salaverria

Good heavens, Jamby chooses to pray with Quiboloy over Bro. Mike

PRAYERFUL Jamby Madrigal at the Sacred Mountain in Davao City, one out of Pastor Apollo Quiboloy

From page A1

Jesus Christ (JCC), on his 60th birthday. She is celebrating her 62nd birthday the following day.

Last week, Madrigal traveled to Tagaytay City to "seek guidance, not an endorsement" from the INC leader.

Only God's business

She earlier called on Quiboloy at the KJC "Prayer Mountain" in Barangay Tamayong in Davao City, where he wished that she would join the presidential election.

Madrigal recalled the sun "very touched when I first met Pastor Quiboloy. He has not used his religious influence to influence people and he's not in business."

"His only business is God's business," she stressed.

According to Madrigal, Quiboloy and Velarde, leaders of the El Shaddai Charismatic Ministry, are "business square."

"Pastor Quiboloy is a spiritual man while Bro. Mike is a businessman. Bro. Mike also has the arrogance of an empire while Pastor Quiboloy has the humility of Jesus," she said.

True spiritual leader

Madrigal said the believes that "when you go to Pastor Quiboloy, the good thing to do is not to seek his endorsement but to seek guidance."

"He's a true spiritual leader and his guidance and advice are really very important," she said.

Asked why she was not seeking Velarde's blessing, Madrigal said "different people are, come with him. He has close ties with Sen. Jinggoy Villar. But for us, we have very little in common."

She explained: "It was never easy to talk with Bro. Mike. He was not very open. He was also more distant. But with Pastor Quiboloy, it's like you know him all my life and we have the same spiritual objectives. So maybe, that's why I find it easier to talk to him."

Madrigal added: "In 2004, I asked for his (Velarde's) endorsement when I first ran for senator. I lost. In 2004, I was when I didn't ask for his endorsement."

New Emperor!

She resumed that Velarde "will be the new Emperor" of Villar in the land of the Sanduan.

"It's perfect because Emperor also claimed to be a man of God . . . Maybe, Villar should watch out. El Emperor may cause his fall." The original Emperor entered the land of the Sanduan sometime in the early 1900s," Madrigal said.

Emperor Hilarion del Rosario (1869-1915) was a Russian royals and broke who supposedly influenced the latter days of Russian czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra and their only son Alexei. The so-called "Mad Monk" helped discredit the Russian monarchy, leading to the fall of the Romanov dynasty in 1917.

The color orange

Early this week, Velarde said in a TV interview that among the nine presidential bets, he is closest to Villar.

"Orange is my favorite color during the campaign," he said. The Nacionalista Party has adopted orange as its official color.

Madrigal favored no reports that Velarde would be the Villar nominee of Bulilit party-list group.

Mangudadatu vows to defy threats, leaves fate to God

COTABATO CITY—BULGAH Vice Mayor Esmael Mangudadatu is not intimidated by the prospect of campaigning to areas in Maguindanao considered strongholds of the family blamed for the death of a number of his relatives and at least 58 journalists last year.

"Of course, the danger and apprehension are there, but I do will not stop me from trying to communicate with the electorate," he said.

Mangudadatu's wife, his sister, an aunt and several supporters and local journalists were headed to Sharif Aguak today to file his certificate of candidacy for governor on Nov. 25 when they were waylaid by armed men allegedly led by Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr.

Based on initial investigation, the police believe Andal Jr. was trying to prevent the Mangudadatu party from filing the vice mayor's candidacy.

Andal is also planned to contest the post, which his father, Andal Sr., had held for nine years.

Mangudadatu acknowledged that while most members of the Ampatuan family, including Andal Jr., had been arrested, there are five others had not surrendered.

Many militiamen loyal to the Ampatuans have eluded manhunters and remain at large, according to reports from the police and the military.

Mangudadatu said he was hoping for him up to God, adding, "I'm not afraid to campaign in areas considered the political hallowicks of the Ampatuans."

"My only wish is for the coming election to end with a good outcomes, that God grants us the favor to win and be able to serve the people the best we can," he said during the start of the local campaign period here Friday.

Mangudadatu said he was given the chance to govern, he would strive to provide his constituents with a different kind of governance "where the people are masters and the elected their public servants."

Vice Mayor Mangudadatu reportedly ruled the province with iron fists until Monday.

Mangudadatu is joined against Datu Sakilan Mayor Midpantao Abdulmalong, father in law of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, and Datu Odin Sinsuat as Mayor Ombra Sinsuat, an ally of the Ampatuans. Cherie C. Sorbase, Inquirer Mindanao

Bar topnotchers: Balance, prayer, scholarship did it

From page A1

them in September and October last year.

Like other topnotchers, Relos said he did not expect the "honors" of topping the bar.

"Even when I was a child I never saw myself as not being a lawyer," he said in a phone interview yesterday after hardly any sleep the night before.

There is only one lawyer in the family, he said, who happens to be a cousin.

Catalyst

He said he was able to get through law school by balancing academics with pastoral activities with fraternity brothers from Lex Leonum Fraternitas.

"When I started during the first year, they were the ones teaching me. When I was not studying, we were having fun. So this was the catalyst, the balance. They were very supportive," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Relos said he was "overwhelmed" by the list exams which he said became longer as most each of the eight subjects had two examinees.

Instead of one examinee giving 50 questions, they had two examinees giving 25 questions each per subject.

He passed the Aceta law firm last November after taking a one-month break after the bar.

Tough

Caroline Lagos, 26, asked another fraternity in the cop of provincial legislator University of the Philippines by saying fourth in the bar exams. She said she thought she would fail because the second week of the exams nearly broke her spirit.

"It was so tough. I thought I was going to be DQ'ed [disqualified] so I was pouring hard," she said over the phone.

But she picked herself up and completed the remaining two months.

When the news reached her at the Accra office, where she's also working, on Friday night, Lagos broke down in tears. "I cried and cried. I couldn't believe it."

Like father, like daughter

Her father, Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Rafael Lagos topped the bar exams in 1988. Like daughter, the father also graduated from UP.

"He's my idol," said Lagos, who said she took up law because she wanted to study "something very practical."

"I was fed all the time trying to help people solve their problems," she said.

Lagos graduated in 2008 with a dean's medal because she was ranked 13th in their batch.

Third is eight

And her UP topmobber thirdmate Rogen B., or "Third" to his family and friends, who ranked eighth, is also a personification of perseverance.

Coming from an admittedly lower-middle-class family with five family member there is only one breadwinner and his father's earnings, Rogen got through law school mainly through scholarships and sponsorship from his fraternity brothers from the Upsilon Sigma Phi chapter in Southern Cotabato.

And why did he take up law? "I thought knowing the law is a very powerful tool to effect changes," said this 28-year-old who was also elected chair of the UP Diliman Student Council from 2008 to 2009, his senior year in law school.

At the same time, he was also a wedding student with a part-time job as legal researcher in a government office.

He is the first lawyer in the family.

Having joined Liberal Party (the presidential candidate Manuel Roxas II's campaign, Rogen said he had his hands full until mid-term exams.

His goal: Take one

Afterwards, he said, he would decide what to do next. He said he was looking at pursuing further law studies abroad although he would want to practice his profession for a year or two.

But definitely, he said, he would want to pursue a career in "public policy development."

Rogen described the bar exam as a "harrowing experience."

"I prepared for it like it was the last exam of my life. Because I wanted to take it only once," Rogen said, explaining that the bar exam was not limited to "involves your family and friends. And I don't want to expose us them again."

'Ondoy'

The three topnotchers said they "lost but their classmates' and fellow law examinees" who were affected by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" that submerged entire villages during what should have been the final week of

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OPINION

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Subversives

THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM WAS INVISIONED AS A kind of political experiment to provide marginalized sectors with the chance to be represented in the House of Representatives, thereby preserving a conscientiousness to the influence of the usual conservative, landed and wealthy composition of that chamber. At first, the sectoral representatives were appointed by the chief executive, then they were directly elected, with court cases setting the complicated proportional formulas to be used in determining the number of congressional seats they won based on the votes they got and the provisions of law. In this manner, the militant Left, most notably, managed to secure a measure of representation in the House by establishing as many different party lists as it could.

EDITORIAL

However, other groups also seized on the party-list system to elect representatives whose values were more in harmony with the norms of the House's traditional entrenched clique with the aspirations of the marginalized sectors. Against these groups, no restrictions in law has really worked: for example, the son of a prominent pastor has been a party-list representative despite the outright prohibition on religious party lists. The basic constituency of that pastor's son is the father's congregation, but his party list says no claim to be a religious one, thus avoiding disqualification.

This year, the Commission on Elections has made some party-list groups go through the eye of a needle (recall the gay, lesbian and transgendered organization Ang Ladlad) while practically promiscuously allowing others to participate despite failing to meet qualification criteria for competing in the elections. (For example, the Bgbis Pinoy party list, which is identified with Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino, has failed to make it in three previous elections and, therefore, should have been excluded this time around.) The same elections (2007) that had Jocelyn Pelpama trying to secure a House seat as a party-list representative also brought in President Macapagal-Arroyo's sister-in-law as a representative for the Ang Kasangga party list. This year, the Arroyo family blot in the House hopes to grow with the addition of the President herself, who is running to take his son Mikey's seat in Pampanga's second district. Mikey himself is running for a party-list seat under Ang Galing Pinoy. Aside from the sister-in-law and Mikey, running for reelection is her brother-in-law, Rep. Iggy Arroyo (Fifth district, Negros Occidental); her younger son, Dato (First district, Camarines Sur), is gunning for a new gerrymandered district in Bicol.

To be sure, about the only thing marginal about the Arroyos is their good standing in the eyes of the people. Nothing could be farther from what party-list representation is supposed to be than members of the President's clan sitting as representatives of marginalized party-list groups.

Consider the President's eldest son, Mikey, displaced from his district because of his own mother's continuing ambitions. Now it seems the eldest of the President's brood is looking forward to remaining in the House, after all—as a party-list representative representing security guards. Sociologist Randy David in a recent talk estimated the ubiquitous private security guards to number half a million—more than enough votes to elect more than one party-list representative. Considering that security guard companies are (more often than not) run by retired military officers, and that the top brass has prospered under the present administration, it's obvious how the transactional style of the present leadership can pay great dividends in votes in May. Among other things, it means that the eldest Arroyo son, whose knowledge of security guards most likely extends only to ordering fries around, can now claim to represent them.

And where the First Family doesn't fear to tread, its acolytes aren't far behind. Otherwise unelectable members of the Cabinet have "accepted" nominations to be party-list representatives in the hope they can secure office undercover. It's enough to make people nostalgic for the time when sectoral representatives were just appointed: generally they were more distinguished, more urbane. But now we have a system where the marginalized have been further marginalized by the political pros.

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Goodbye forever

SEPARATE OPINION

Raquiza A. Cruz

IN JUNE 2004, GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO, with the Bible in her hand, took her oath of office as President of the Philippines for a term of six years.

After a period of indecision, she finally was very surprised to see her cabinets in the House of Representatives that refused to serve her office for the term prescribed by the Constitution.

Now she faces a sudden process for the end of her term as the highest officer in the land. She will do so without any disrespect for her successor. This is despite her disregard for another provision of the Constitution, Art VII, Sec 10, otherwise known as the rule against "midnight appointments," reading as follows:

Section 15. Two months immediately before the next presidential elections and up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except temporary appointments to executive positions when urgently and necessary thereto will prejudice public service or endanger public safety.

At the beginning of her term, the provision was seen as a limitation on midnight appointments only in the executive departments, as newspaper exempt Ms Arroyo believed. But she changed her mind some two weeks ago. Now she believes it does not apply to judicial offices, which is governed by the doctrine of separation of powers.

As she sees it, the provision on midnight appointees applies only to executive officers and does not cover judicial offices. Her close confidante is no less than Chief Justice who is retiring on May 17, 2004—not ready to be replaced as early as shortly before the end of her own term on June 30, 2010.

Normally, a retiring president of the Philippines would not think of appointing a chief justice who will be serving the bulk of his term under the new president, but not Ms Arroyo. She will remain President for the remaining period of her term and during such period, she will exercise all the powers and privileges of her office. She will include the power to appoint the successor to Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

What would she mean after she ceases to be President? Let us not forget that, even when she President ceases to be so, she hopes to be head of the government and legally immune from her past deficiencies. As prime minister or speaker, which she hopes to be, she would exert much pressure on the decisions of the present government.

In any case, the present attitude of Ms Arroyo excites much criticism from every Filipino citizen. How she views with all of us is a judgment, not so much on her but on each of us holders of the gift of suffrage. We are entitled, as ordinary electors, to choose the men and women who can determine whether their homes will be bright or bleak. That is how much the plains of suffrage can mean to every elector, who can unite with every other elector with similar hopes, to have a better tomorrow for our country.

Ms Arroyo herself seems to be ashamed of her change of role from retired president to that of an aspirant to a new office. She has sought to justify her new role through appointed spokesperson, with or without authority, including use of her sons. She is ashamed of her new persona and would not agree to identify herself in person.

This reminds me of the other diagnosis she employed to prevent her real personality as culprit. I remember that she did not reply on the persons responsible for the P1.9-billion fertilizer scandal, the P728-million fraud on the farmers, and other transactional frauds on the people.

By allowing others to speak in her name, she is preserving them to assume responsibility for future calls she obviously wishes to evade. That is not the way of the true leader. The true leader speaks on his own and assumes responsibility for the risks he undertakes. He will not deny what things were nor are to be intended, that he never said this or that, or that he was misquoted—purposely or not—by his spokesman.

Let us not allow Ms Arroyo to inflict seeds of imposition on the already defrauded people. We cannot stomach yet another subterfuge by the "once beloved of the nations," who is not to say more, even if it is demanded in the mouth of the Supreme Court. And so we consider the high court's latest questionable decision. The coloration given by Malacañang, which since of the higher justices will imply wear, is roundly rejected with more gusto by another, while three of the highest justices are reported not to speak on a subject "not worth talking about," and another two justices say there is nothing to vote upon. That is how confused the Supreme Court seems to be.

The issue is not the guts and nose before the Supreme Court. The issue is more to Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. You must live or you do not. If you must live despite her many failures to deserve your confidence in her, then by all means, vote for her. If not, then don't vote for her at all. That's democracy.

Remember to remember

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE LAZINESS? (ASE)
Answer: Because its days are numbered!

* * *

Today is Palm Sunday, which marks the beginning of the Holy Week. "Some are sad days ahead of us as we remember Jesus' passion and death, but also joyful days ahead of us as we rejoice in Christ's victory over death in His Resurrection. These are precious days ahead of us ("Hilaw to Jesus") to remind us it was all because of love that we were redeemed with much pain and at a great price.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 22, 1-49) we lovingly recall the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. We remember with deep gratitude how much He loved us all—to the extent of His agony, betrayal and death, but also joyful days ahead of us as we rejoice in Christ's victory over death in His Resurrection. These are precious days ahead of us ("Hilaw to Jesus") to remind us it was all because of love that we were redeemed with much pain and at a great price.

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* * *

The Holy Week is the time to forget monkery, money, figures, commodities, surveys and politics a while, and to focus on the three things in life, like values, mission, relationships and the great beyond. Numbers and figures are important, but precisely because our days are numbered in this world, we should focus our eyes more on the quality of life that we are living, and less on the quantity that we are amassing.

* * *

If we would think about our figures and numbers anyway, this Holy Week we could perhaps reflect on the "7 Last Words," or the 14 Stations of the Cross, or perhaps do a one-hour adoration. Or perhaps we could reach out to one or two people we have an-

* * *

Amidst the busy schedule before and during Holy Week, God has a way of reminding me of the loving presence. Last March 24, on my way back from Davao to Tacloban, I spent one hour with my brother-in-law (father of my friend Abner Cotoladcuan). It was late and dark and the 45-minute walk leading to the house was dusty and rough. Well, part of mission. Well meeting when I looked at my shoes, there was no trace of mud or dust at all! It was the insignificant to some, but for me, it was God's way of telling me that He was with me in all my errands. Oh yes, He is alive, and He is very much around.

* * *

Don't forget that the passion and death of Jesus did not end in the grave. Yes, there's Resurrection. There is eternal life. Let us keep on hoping and keep on believing that all our trials and sufferings will lead to victory someday. Goodness will be rewarded. Evil will be overcome. So, let us keep on working and keep on hoping. Amen.

* * *

Inviting you to join us in our recollection on March 29 (Holy Monday)—8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Juan Nepo., and 8 p.m. at St. Joseph Shrine, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City; on March 30 (Holy Tuesday)—7:30 p.m. at Santuario de San Jose Church, Las Piñas; on April 1 (Holy Thursday)—8 a.m. to 12 noon, at Santuario de San Jose, Antipolo.

* * *

"Witnessing to the Light," A TV documentary of our trip to the Holy Land with Mind 4ever Fatima Journals will be aired on ABS-CBN at on 3PC on April 1 (Holy Thursday) 1 p.m., and on April 3 (Holy Saturday) 1 p.m.

* * *

Let us all have a blessed, prayerful, meaningful Holy Week. It would be our last.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, remind me that life is short, and that my days are numbered. Amen.

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

Midnight chief justice

WITH DUE RESPECT

Armando V. Pangalangan

THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT THE[RE] justices (in fact, all justices and judges) are to be appointed by the president from a list of candidates prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC). Thus, the JBC started two months ago the process of vetting candidates in anticipation of the retirements of Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno on May 17 this year.

Midnight ban. The Charter likewise provides that "no vacancy shall be filled by the appointment[ing] authority within the two months immediately before the next presidential election, up to the end of his term, a President or Acting President shall not make appointments, except to the Supreme Court, to fill a vacancy created by election, when nominated vacancies thereto will prejudice public service or endanger public safety."

Voting 9-3, the Court—in De Castro vs JBC (March 17, 2010)—ruled that the constitutional ban on "midnight appointments" does not apply to the chief magistracy and directed the JBC "to submit to the incumbent President the short list of nominees for the position of Chief Justice on or before May 17, 2010" to enable GMA to appoint Puno's successor.

The ban was resurrected some 50 years ago when Aytona vs Castillo (Jan. 19, 1962) voided several appointments (including one to the Supreme Court) made by then President Carlos P. Garcia one day before his term expired. Relying on plain common sense and old-fashioned dictionaries, the Court said that "[t]o appoint is to designate the absence of any prohibition in the three Constitutions."

The ban was incorporated in the reverse Constitution upon the suggestion of then Commissioner Hilario G. Davide Jr. In questioning the measure in the Constitutional Commission, Davide expressly said that "[t]he evil that we sought to avoid in the last few years was a 'President Ferdi[nand Marcos] appointing his wife subsequently appointing people to these sensitive positions."

Unanimous, understanding. In de Valenzuela (Nov. 5, 1998), the Court unanimously ruled that the ban applied to the judiciary, including the Supreme Court. It "announced [the JBC] to defer [its] deliberations on the vacancies that will occur after the appointment ban."

TALK of the TOWN

Edna Juan V. Sumalpong Jr.

PROTESTERS stage a torch parade in Davao City to denounce moves in the House of Representatives to convene as a constituent assembly.

Benigno Aquino III | JC de los Reyes | Joseph Estrada | Richard Gordon | Maria Ana Consuelo Madrigal | Nicanor Perlas | Gilberto Teodoro Jr. | Eduardo Villanueva | Manuel Villar

Stand on Cha-cha, GMA as Speaker

EVERY PRESIDENT AFTER THE AQUINO ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTED MOVES TO AMEND the 1987 Constitution. Fidel Ramos tried it through Pimma, a signature campaign that sought to lift term limits; Joseph Estrada through Concord (Constitutional Correction for Development) that pushed for allowing foreigners to own land; and President Macapagal Arroyo via a signature campaign and later through a constituent assembly that collective a shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Will the next President also push for Charter change (Cha-cha)?

■ Are there provisions in the 1987 Constitution that need to be amended? If yes, what are these? Why?

■ Are you in favor of a shift to a parliamentary form of government? If yes, what mode (constituent assembly, constituent assembly or people's initiative) do opponents campaign? Which do you think the country should adopt (parliamentary government? Why a parliamentary system?

■ Should you support President Macapagal-Arroyo should she seek the speakership in the House of Representatives? Why? [Ms Arroyo is running for representative in her home province, Pampanga.]

Benigno Aquino III
Liberal Party

The need for amendments to the Constitution, and whether there's a public clamor here per se for amendment, I will support the creation of a body to determine them. If the Constitution must be amended, it should be through a constituent assembly.

The current administration more than anything else has shown us that the 1987 Constitution is flawed in that it must be abused in order to enjoy its power. I am in favor of tightening the Constitution against those abuses of the other's of the presidency in order to avoid compromised but play.

Nobody has presented yet an argument that makes a public necessary shift against which shows that the country is really at risk with the present form of government that you have to change it.

So I will not support President Macapagal-Arroyo should she seek the speakership in the House of Representatives. I.

Having the Arroyo as the Speaker would make it hard for us to find closure to all of the anomalies of her administration. The Liberal Party and our allies in the House will oppose her plans.

Submitted by Aquino's staff

JC de los Reyes
Ang Kapatiran

Given our Constitution a chance, Charter change at this time will not help and heal this suffering nation, whose wounds the majority we poorest have suffered.

There is a need to amend these skewed big shots that it is said, mainly about the good of the filipino people, a good that must be built on a foundation of genuine love and public service, not immoral entrapments.

The most overwhelming problem of the economy (here's not the lack of government, but those in government — that is land culture, which allows establish corruption causing widening poverty. All these would go and haunt our institutions that further ensure and maintain. At the end of the day, it is all about greed . . . maximizing money or wealth, political influence and power.

We want love and hate that also indeed is a moral problem in need of a moral solution. And the irony of issues? It is in giving our Constitution a chance to take shape and come into its own, whose promise is yet to be realized in the minds and hearts of Filipinos when it comes down up to them and together to triumph. This is where the most challenge lies.

Interview by Jeremy Antig

Joseph Estrada
Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino

Didn't I start that with Concord? The provision on the ownership of land as one agricultural land. I still let foreigners own land. The only area benefiting from the current provision are big state conductors like the Ayalas. They buy up over hundreds of thousands of hectares and speculate. So the members the property remains idle.

If we allow foreigners to own land, they will develop it. Jobs will be generated. As the same time, we will collect taxes on idle lands.

So I'm not in favor of a parliamentary form of government. I think the only state that that marginalized people or the mass can have due equality with the elites is elect a President.

Under the parliamentary set-up, the mass will not be able to elect the President that way. It will be their representatives.

I am amenable to experiment for a time with a change. If you don't like what will be elected (by the voters).

If I have my way I prefer a constitutional commission. I'll let all interests... the business, the workers... choose the best for running them. Thirty persons will come from the academe... the retired justices of the Supreme Court.

A constitutional convention would be very expensive. Besides, the politicians would again come in. The politicians would again write the rules.

If GMA as Speaker is to do meaningful to the Office of the President. In the first place, she should not run for any office. She has become the President for nine years, longer than the six years term under the Constitution. That's more than enough.

She will have undue advantage. That's why the incumbent President is prohibited from running for reelection. She will have undue advantage over any opposition because of government resources at her command. It's clearly thing she did to PD. She used Pagcor, the PCSO, public works. And more! Yes, against her, brother lends. She used the police. She used the military.

Interview by Norman Bordadora

Richard Gordon
Bagumbayan

There is a lot to amend in our Constitution. First, the set mass a presidentialism of parliamentary form of government.

If I'm parliamentary, then we should have multi-party system. If it's presidential, we should have a two-party system. But I think the parliamentary system is not suited to us.

Look at how we quickly change our minds on our Presidents and have quickly our congressmen's change loyalties. We should consider the parliamentary system once we have developed a true party system.

Second, I want the bill of duties and obligations for citizens to be amended. When I take over the government, I will set the tone.

The provisions on rights is clear. I also have duties.

Third is in terms of land use. I will open up foreign investments in land but they should not own any land, but set up to allow of land lords. They can go on joint venture. And if they get someone else or residential use, they can rent out to it for three years. They have to utilize it.

Fourth, I would open up media for foreign participation as we are really being a cesspool. I was shocked when I heard some radicals to remove the 30-60 laws called—and debated—called call-in. We don't really have a free press. Whoever has the money plays the tune. Maybe we all the media, but certainly not all nation data.

Fifth, I would remove the immunity suits in banks or bring in foreign troops to our country. Why are we entertaining suits by drug cartels from calling us as ally to help us? Do we still have to amend the Constitution if we are to unload or if we have a problem?

Sixth, I will also remove term limits for local government officials. I would like local government leaders to have six-year terms. The terms should be the same to decide the term limits.

If the GMA is elected independent of the House Representatives, she can be a Speaker. I would have no personally support her. I would look for a better alternative. I don't remember her running for Congress.

But how will I deal with a House with GMA as Speaker? The President has plenty of powers. The Speaker is always subject to the President's favor.

Interview by Edson C. Tandoc Jr

Maria Ana Consuelo Madrigal
Independent

I voted to oppose the drive of foreign investors and their local political business partners to amend and replace the nationalist and protectionist provisions in our Constitution, specifically those reserving ownership of land and media to Filipino citizens. We should also oppose moves to change the existing set-up in the country to the military-presidency to exchange for widening politicians' privileges.

If there is a need for Charter change, it should be for repealing, not abolishing pro-Filipino provisions.

However, this proposed to convene into a constituent assembly (con-ass) to amend the constitution is not only senseless but also dangerous.

Third is in terms of land use. I will open up foreign investments in land but they should not own any land, but set up to allow of land lords. They can go on joint venture. And if they get someone else or residential use, they can rent out to it for three years. They have to utilize it.

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Interview by Edson C. Tandoc Jr

Nicanor Perlas
Independent

Remove constitutional bodies like the Office of the Ombudsman and the Constitution orchestrate as well as the Supreme Court from the oppositive power of the President as well how unelected officials.

No I'm not in favor of a shift to a parliamentary form of government. I, a parliamentary system pressures the presence of powerful political parties that have concentrated executives, are personality-based power conditions, such early end up to unjust dictatorship.

No, if won't support GMA seeking the speakership. I, in fact if I'm in Congress, I will tell them that it will be one of their worst decisions if they put her back in power after how she destroyed the institutions of this country.

Interview by Ce Rap

Gilberto Teodoro Jr.
Lakas-Kampi-CMD

The "pressure provision" of the Constitution which ensures absolute sovereign immunities changed. Article II, Section 3: "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."

It's said sometimes as a justification for the Armed Forces to be a political threats, which is one of the right way to go.

Term limit of Congress area, congressional, industrial and commercial lands, engaging a few areas for low-cost housing. 1% OR with total ownership. But not agricultural, mineral or forest land.

The provision on the AFP chief of staff also should be amended clearly so that he shall have a three-year limit term unless renewed for cause or other urgent reasons. Right now, term is not legislated, we cannot because of the constitutional provision.

A modified parliamentarian system would be good because PH is not ready for presidential system as head of government. Let me qualify that the "four-year change the Constitution" to me is, if we must amend any clause like "whatever" and only support constitutional changes through a Con-con (constitutional convention) or the proper time when people are satisfied that they can amend for the purpose of facilitating a list the agenda.

We should revisit the debate through a Con-con/convene the Constitutional tasks for board, not forward. Maybe, I might even agree for a unicameral parliamentarian system to set up, you have to clarify the need in a completely different view. There's a lot of other measures that can be done. The civil service is one fixed an degrees and examinations.

That happening GMA should she seek the speakership will be a party decision.

Interview by TJ Burgonio

Eduardo Villanueva
Bangon Pilipinas

I am entertaining the possibility of supporting a presidential-parliamentarian system of government like in America if I find by the way to give justice to the people. The economic gap is widening. What belongs in Hacienda Luisita got to Hacienda Luisita, what belongs to the Yuvigans should go back to the Yuvigans. Right now, most of Mindanao's wealth benefits the central government.

So, there should be equitable and just sharing of the economic pie. Because of the problems of Mindanao, I am inclined to — this is not the official stand of the Bangon Pilipinas — favor a federal form of government because I don't want to take away the right of Filipinos to vote for their President.

My reason is to favor a parliamentarian system because urban delegates are elected by the people and to elect the former exercise their duties and functions.

I will respect the consensus of the House but I will not support GMA's speakership. She is already overreaching as President. I don't want to be scared of a tragic chapter of history. She violated the six-year term limit through a technicality. She's in power because of the Supreme Court's pro-government ruling. If we're after the spirit of the Constitution she should not be allowed to run anymore.

Interview by Jesse Pascilloque

Manuel Villar
Nacionalista Party

I personally believe that we should not be restricted to the Constitution we have made when the Philippines, the world and the circumstances were different. However, I leave it up to our people.

If elected, I will consider calls for Charter change but that will not be a priority. The tools are available to improve instruments in order to succeed and political development. The next President must first get the trust and confidence of the people by moving immediately to address the most economic issues such as jobs and opportunities, food, shelter and security. Whether or not there will be a chance to change the Constitution, it should not be a cause to divide the nation.

The economic problems should be reviewed to ensure that citizens will benefit in the form of long-term opportunities and to make the country competitive for foreign investments.

If she chooses to run for parliamentary form of government, I have no preference one way or another because I am not even sure a problem is or not a lack of leadership.

So, I won't support GMA should she seek the speakership. I like to see my party mate and I will support as a Nacionalista Party candidate for Speaker to ensure that the party's objectives of poverty alleviation can be realized.

Submitted by Villar's staff

INQUIRER Mindanao

Girl shows way in struggle vs poverty

By Dennis Jay C. Santos
Reporter, Agusan del Sur

FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, 9-year-old Wendily Montello walked hours on rough road, crossed rivers or used hanging bridges whenever available, just to reach school seven kilometers from where she lives.

The Grade 2 pupil had to endure the trek twice a day, in the morning and in the afternoon, because she wanted to learn and become a teacher one day.

But her dedication was tested by her grandmother's illness late last year.

Montello, who regularly goes to school on a half-empty stomach due to lack of food, said she would not be successful to help her family rise out of poverty.

And she appeared to be on track, her teachers said.

"Because she is an excellent student and could be first honor in her class," said her adviser, Emma Pamaguilin, at Mardi Elementary School in Rosario, Agusan del Sur.

Montello was left under the care of her grandmother when she was 5 years old.

Montello said her father died when she was very young and her mother had gone to Manila to find work and has not been heard of since.

But that did not deter her from pursuing what she wanted to be.

"She has been very diligent and an obedient child," Pamaguilin said.

Pamaguilin and the other teachers said Montello is an example of persistence in the village, where life was so difficult that most children would rather work to help their families survive.

"The income of the family could no longer sustain their studies," said Aida Libertino, a high school teacher.

"They give up school in order to work or help in the family's farm," said Beatriz Probo, an elementary teacher.

Others, out of despair due to poverty, had joined the communist movement. Montello, however, refuses to give up.

"Determination is lacking by default," Transcentral Assistant Secretary Jesus Dureza said during a visit here on March 4.

Dureza admitted that extreme poverty in the countryside was one reason people join the New People's Army.

In fact, the military said, Montello's village is among the country's Red areas.

The determination of villages—like Montello—in this part of Caraga region caught [illegible] of international donors, [illegible] representatives here with Dureza.

After all, the villages wanted to [illegible] from being Red areas into developed ones.

Among the recent visitors to the village were New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Anderson Wilkinson, representatives from the United Nations Development Program and other government officials.

Matheson, the first foreign diplomat to come to the village, said the visit was like a fact-finding mission because he wanted to know if programs aimed at remembering villages, like Mardi, into progressive areas were working.

NINE-YEAR-OLD Wendily Montello (second from left), a Grade 2 pupil of Barangay Mardi in Rosario, Agusan del Sur waves a flag during the arrival of foreign diplomats and government officials in her village. (DENNIS JAY C. SANTOS)

The Grade 2 pupil had to endure the trek twice a day, in the morning and in the afternoon, because she wanted to learn and become a teacher one day

Education for tribal kids a tough task for teachers

By Rina May de Guzman
Reporter/Agusan Bulletin

CLOISTERED IN THE MOUNtains of Sultan Kudarat, teachers at Tboli Elementary School are struggling to educate a new generation of ethnic people.

Unlike other children used to TV and radio, many children in this hamlet have not heard of the world outside. The only language they learn to value their elders have known all their lives—their mother tongue.

As a town like Bagumbayan, children from minority groups are virtually non-existent in an education system that does not recognize their language and culture. The indigenous children are lost and confused in school since they are taught in a language they do not understand.

The Department of Education estimates that the dropout rate for students in higher than the national rate with seven from 10 percent of children in ethnic communities abandoning school early.

The hilly part of Bagumbayan is a unique region. Decades of conflict have stunted the growth of the area, which remains mostly isolated from the rest of the country.

Rosalie Bayle, Tboli Elementary School principal, says there was a need to provide education to ethnic people in a language they understand.

At least half of the population of Sultan Kudarat are T'boli while the other half are Ilonggo-Hiligaynons, who belong to the mainstream.

Tboli is just one of hundreds of communities that has its own set of dialects—Ilonggo, Tboli, Maguindanaoan and Cebuano.

"Young graders belonging to the Tboli's can be turned away from school because of the national language, Filipino, which the Tbolis do not speak or understand..." says Flavier.

But lately, unusual things have happened in the school. Early grade schoolers right at their teachers speaking in their native tongue, Ilonggo, inside the classroom.

Mother tongue

To address the struggles in achieving quality education in Tboli, Save The Children Philippines opened an avenue for change in 2008...through the mother tongue-multilingual education (MLE).

Save the Children introduced the MLE—the first in Mindanao—which seeks to give indigenous children quality, comprehensive education and encourage them to stay in school.

The MLE started in Tboli with 79 children in primary and Grade 1, in a predatory of other's study through Save the Children.

The education department and the local government unit are working closely on the project, which seeks to introduce a multilingual pre-primary program in Tboli.

The project would enroll children at 4 years old/and offers a two-year program.

The project advocates the MLE approach in education, in which the children's mother tongue and Filipino are used in the classroom. By starting their education in their mother tongue, children learn in the language they understand.

"The main idea of the MLE is to develop the minority's children's potentials to learn the use of mother tongue as a language of teaching in the first part of education," says Bernie Divine, Save the Children program manager in Central Mindanao.

"Young graders belonging to the Tboli's can be turned away from school because of the national language, Filipino, which the Tbolis do not speak or understand..."

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Across the NATION

Pilgrims told: Mt. Banahaw is closed

LUCENA CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources (DENR) on Friday announced that the mystical Mt. Banahaw will remain closed to religious pilgrims and mountaineers this coming Holy Week.

"[I]t Mt. Banahaw] has been abused for decades. Let's allow the mountain to heal," Wilo Tamesis, DENR regional executive director, said in a statement.

Some religious groups believe Mt. Banahaw is inhabited by heavenly spirits. Many believers trek its slopes during the Lenten season.

"All she we recognize that Mt. Banahaw is widely regarded as a sacred place, the supposedly holy, sacred mountain has not been accorded due respect and has not been spared from human exploitation," Tamesis reasoned out.

Barbed wires

In the summer of 2010, several days before Holy Week, the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) sealed off with barbed wire several trails leading to certain areas in the barangays of Banahaw to ensure the area rehabilitation program that would restore the mountain's natural resources.

Aside from death and harm brought on by the mountain's sanctity, modern pilgrims and urban-based nature trippers vandalized the mountain, leaving heaps of trash behind.

After the restriction period ended, the mountain has shown signs of healing as wildlife animal and plant species started to flourish again, including "tarlbasa," considered the world's biggest flower.

The PAMB also noted the return of concerned nature-covered mountain, hills and the growth of fresh vegetation.

In March last year, the PAMB decided to seal off the mountain for three more years to ensure its rehabilitation.

Closed routes

Tamesis said park rangers and composite teams formed by the PAMB will ensure that entry points to Mt. Banahaw will be closed and strictly monitored, particularly with going to the Crisostimo Falls, Tayabasan, Talisay Tingko and Kinabuhayan, popular spots in the mountain facing Dolores, Quezon.

He also said that entry points from Lagnya town, particularly in the villages of Brgy. 6, Tinoto ng Pagbuya, Dalong Hara, Concepcion Pinaglabanan and Banahaw still likewise be closed and monitored.

On Dec. 11, 2009, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9847, declaring Mt. Banahaw and adjacent Mt. San Cristobal as protected areas to garner both recognition.

Quezon Rep. Proceso Alcala, who authored the law, said the measure bolsters a sustainable conservation and management system for the rich biodiversity found in the two mountains that would boost their ecotourism potentials, the rich cultural and religious heritage found in its periphery.

Broken signs

Jolly Pangan, DENR park superintendent for Mt. Banahaw, said the DENR has been receiving reports that even police pilgrims and other trekkers had been trying to reach areas declared off limits atop the mountain through various entry points in Dolores and Sariaya towns.

Pangan lamented that government warning signs and advisories in strategic areas of Banahaw were being vandalized and torn.

"We have to put up new signs again. Hopefully, it will last until the next Lenten season," she said. *Joelle T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

WAITING FOR GLORIA
An Army vow lies unfurled in Barangay Tartaro in San Miguel, Bulacan, where President Macapagal-Arroyo was to preside over groundbreaking rites for a 300-hectare housing project for soldiers but had to cancel to attend to her ailing husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. *(ERNIE PEÑAREDONDO)*

In Bohol, some bets are luckier than others

By Chito A. Chavez
Inquirer Visayas

TAGBILARAN CITY—SOME ARE LUCKIER than others.

Some candidates in Bohol are already winners even before the campaign period for local elections started last Friday. The winners—they are running unopposed.

On top of the list is former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap who is aiming for congressional in the third district.

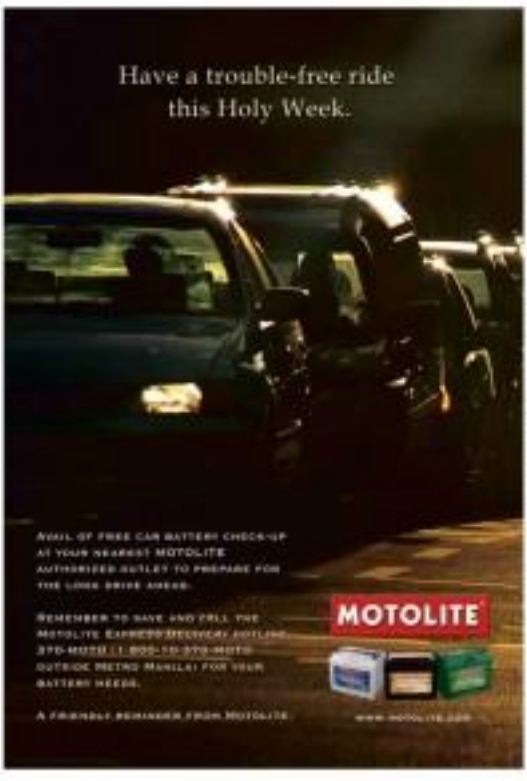
Yap, married to a native of Loboc town, ensured his victory when Aurora district congressman Eladio Jala decided against running on May 10 and accepted instead an offer to serve as commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The elder Jala had planned to run for a House seat again after serving for three terms. He was replaced by his son, incumbent Rep. Adam Relson Jala.

The elder Jala was expected to give Yap stiff opposition but was prevailed upon to give way to Yap, who was one of President Macapagal-Arroyo's most favorite Cabinet members.

After running unopposed are seventy-one-year-old Democrito Otante of Balilihan town, Roberto Sullano of Creighton and Louie Thomas Gonzaga of Danao.

Otante, the incumbent vice mayor, is looking to reclaim his old post from his friend, Mayor Victorio Glenn who is no longer seeking reelection.



NEWSBRIEFS

■ CAVITE

Fire destroys 188 houses

TRECE MARTIRES—At least 188 houses in Trece Martires City on Good Friday, according to police.

Supt. Romeo Rosal, chief of the Trece Martires police, said the fire started at around 7 p.m. in a community filled with houses made of light materials. No one was reported injured. *Marlon P. Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ CAMARINES SUR

Mayor suspended, reinstated

PASACAO-NAVOR—Assessor V. Arnelo was suspended and reinstated on the same day, on the first day of the campaign period.

Arnelo was suspended by the provincial board of Camarines Sur for alleged abuse of authority but she was reinstated by order of Malacañang, citing submission of the Local Government Code that prohibits suspension of election officials within the election period.

The mayor was a vocal opponent of Governor Sur Vice, Luis Raymund Villafuerte. *Jason Gabbar Gales, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ CAMARINES NORTE

New governor takes over

JOSE V. TITOSO JR. finally gave way to a new governor of Camarines Norte on Thursday, relinquishing his gubernatorial post to Edgar Tallado, who was declared winner of the 2007 elections in extensive final counting a month before the last elections on May 10.

Tallado was accompanied by Department of Interior and Local Government Regional Director Rhandee Blanco and Philippine National Police officers in taking over the gubernatorial post.

Evidently, the Supreme Court voted 11-2, with one abstention, to uphold the Comelec decision to annul Tyrone's proclamation as governor of Camarines Norte and declare Tallado as winner in the May 2007 elections.

Tyrone is running for mayor.

Two resolutions were issued by the Comelec supporting Tallado's claim to victory—one by the first division on April 30, 2009, and another by the Comelec en banc on Feb. 24, 2009.

Tyrone argued in a petition at the Supreme Court that the Comelec committed grave abuse of discretion, but this was junked by the high court.

Tyrone at first defied the Comelec and Supreme Court decisions, ordering the closure of the provincial capitol.

He backed down only after he was ordered arrested. Tallado said the first thing he would do was conduct an inventory of the provincial government's resources. "I will end nlan," he said in his speech. *Jose Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

■ EVENTS

Ceniza, 82

LAWYER ANTONIO M. Ceniza, member of the defunct Batasang Pambansa from 1978-1984 and minister of trade and industry in 1986, died of cardiac arrest last March 21. He was 82.

His remains lie at the Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel in Bicol Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Burial is scheduled today at Celestial Gardens in Basak, Cebu City, after Mass at the Virgen de los Remedios Church.

RUSSEL POWER Vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda tries to fill in for a "lahing" vendor in Cebu during a series of campaign sorties in the province recently. The vendor's daughter Legarda's help in dispelling rumors of widespread red tide contamination. *(LEONARDO ESPINA)*

"I HERE TO ONLY ONE MAN! Always we instinct and unethical methods have point from appealing to their sense of patriotism. 'God's to pay their methods.'

GINO TEODORO, March 2010

GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: globalpinoy@yahoo.com

The section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in industries, in consideration others [illegible] in the corners of the world to secure a b[illegible] other stories.

From Isabela to the world's corporate corridors

THAT TOWERING FEELING Up, up goes Dr. Wilfred "Will" Jamilom on the beam by an NTT cyber-guru.

By Hazel Ortiz-Jamilom
Contributor

THE NEW YORK Stock Exchange and eBay are but two of the high-profile companies that were won by IBM Software Group in recent years. Such accounts fall under the responsibility of multi-whiz Wilfred "Will" Jamilom, an IBM senior software engineer and product development manager based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Will Jamilom is also known by the company for his work on several IBM patents, including a book on Linux Performance. He now aims at becoming one of the senior technical leaders at IBM Corporation.

Dr. Wilfred Jamilom is also proud to be Filipino.

Difficult start

From the rough and muddy roads of Cabatuan, Isabela to the high-rising corridors of New York and his picturesque home in North Carolina, Will's eager-to-strike journey truly like a Hero (directed by Ang Lee) and Bayani (by Dolphy). But it is also marked by perseverance and determination. He chose to engage and excel.

The fourth son of a six Ilocano farmer and retired military father Will grew up under the humble conditions of the '70s. Money was tight. And so was freedom.

But his imagination and energy were boundless. Trained by his mother to be independent at an early age, Will would wake up at 4 a.m. to prepare breakfast and then prepare for school, a public elementary school nearby. Being poor, his family would not buy new clothes or his food to [illegible] his older brothers. After school, he would then rush home to help his mother with the chores.

Living in a small house compelled Will to put some order. He had a knack for math and created an algorithm of schedule so each brother would take turns in washing the dishes and cooking meals for a certain day.

He did not enjoy the luxury of cool toys. In fact, they had no toys at all. He would play with other children in the neighborhood using [illegible] as a ball. Patintero, Bahalo, tagsaan, Sobre Sachenas. Despite not having toys, playing these traditional games seemed more beneficial and was a good form of exercise.

Gypsy life

His father was a carry out because as they had to move often, depending on his assignments. They took on a gypsy-like kind of life. He was shy and was unable to make friends or keep them. Instead, Will channeled his energy to school. He became a bookworm professional when it came to homework.

"I honestly didn't know why I was so enthusiastic about learning and why I did well in school," Will said.

"Where did I get the impulse? For me, it just felt very natural, like I was born to be very competitive, hardworking, sensible, responsible and all."

Even as they traveled often, Will's father was always near for long periods. He worked extremely and would only come home on weekends. Over time, the family started to notice his absences. Not having a father around affected him at a young boy. He did not get to know him so much as he did his mom, and Will struggled in a father figure. But he persevered and learned to lead by himself.

His mother was also shy. She would always prefer to keep to herself and had few relatives. This is to not take would pass on to her children.

Every weekend, Will would accompany his mother at the wet market of Central Quinjo or Tumauini along Espana. Shouting rush hour, slippery and slushy, he would carry oversized bayongs loading his mother. He disliked the smell and vastness of the market. He had to sometimes carry bayongs to overcome it. He often thought that it was just a weekday ordeal he had to bear.

But there's another reason why young Will was his mom's favorite chaperone. He was her walking calculator. He'd be able to add the cost of the items they would buy and make sure they had money left. This activity unwittingly taught Will to sharpen his math skills. Eventually, young Will joined a mathematics competition and became a Quiz Bee champion.

But his genius didn't come easily. His natural talent was not immediately known in the early stages and, in fact, he was quite behind in his subjects during his early years in school. It was in third grade that he discovered a natural love for learning. Owing to his shyness and awkward environment, he turned to his books for company.

Books were his good company. They took him to places he had never been, and his imagination soared. Suddenly, everything was possible. From then, it was a subtle metamorphosis. He rose to the top of his class and was a valedictorian during his graduation. Good news came when he was accepted at Manila Science High School.

A deal with God

But tragedy struck the family. His youngest sister, Lilybeth, was stricken with a disease. She was rushed to a hospital. A heartbroken Will struck a deal with God that if Lilybeth lived, he would dedicate his life to helping others to live and study at Isabela instead of the prestigious Manila Science High School. The family was experiencing a financial crunch and sure solution was to send him to the city.

Again, Will took all of this in stride. He knew another opportunity would present itself and he attended another high school, La Salette of San Mateo High School, the graduating valedictorian of his high school class and took the entrance exams at the University of the Philippines.

It was perhaps one of the happiest moments when he realized that he was not just a UP scholar but also a recipient of a scholarship from the Asia Foundation. Once again, he proved his IQ and determination were endless and expanded to a growing trend—the science of computers.

A slice of the Big Apple

Will's Pinoy values of patriotism, motherhood honesty and humility helped him shine in the global corporate stage and distinguished him from almost half a million IBM employees worldwide.

His academic achievements at UP secured him a spot at the prestigious Syracuse University in New York where he earned his doctorate in computer science. But despite the idea of staying in another prestigious school, it was from where he experienced firsthand the pain of discrimination.

A students in the same school started avoiding him when the rumors bruised. But Will was a Filipino. He have learned that the student's family in his home country considered Filipinos as nothing more than labourers and homemaids.

But instead of succumbing to bitterness, Will decided on a resolution that Filipinos are equally good to study in world-class schools. He broke out to break his shell of being shy and went out to socialize with other students from different countries. He joined sports clubs, developed friends and became more outspoken. This would help him through his work in IBM.

Up the IBM ladder

Will started out as a developer for IBM and provided customer support. He later became a full-fledged engineer in product development for WebSphere, one of IBM's major software brands. He continued going up the ranks to become a senior software engineer and now is working on becoming a software architect and expanding his responsibilities to other software development by IBM.

With nearly half a million IBM employees worldwide, Will understands all an enormous part of the company. Demonstrating to his superiors that he has what it takes to succeed in the company, he exemplified the company's core values as an enabler for success. This requires hard work, passion and a dedication to the job.

"As an IBMer in the technical field, the key to becoming successful is exhibiting competence and delivering results.

So do this requires hard work, passion and dedication to your job. Hard work is a trait that I have been carrying with me since I was a child. It is passing off," Will said.

"I believe that Filipinos are very talented people. Given the right opportunities in this global economy, we can excel in many areas and be competitive. We have a lot to contribute to the world."

Giving back

Will believes that to achieve success is genuine, much is required. He supports his younger brother and sister who are here in the Philippines whenever he can. And his efforts paid off—his younger brother, Vladimir Jamilom, is an art director in one of the most prestigious advertising agencies in Makati, and his younger sister Lilybeth is now a certified therapist based in Canada.

He also cared about the program called "Balik Scientist" and considers being a part of it. It is a program where Filipinos working hard abroad are encouraged to share their expertise and experience with young, budding scientists in the country.

Because success for Will is nothing if not shared with family and friends. "Every recognition, I receive is for my family. And for Filipinos everywhere, we should not be proud of being called Filipino."

Editor's note: The author is a sister-in-law of Will Jamilom's. She is married to his younger brother, Vladimir.

STATUS SYMBOL Will shows his eldest Vladimir and his son Dhiran and his family home in North Carolina.

STORIES FROM MANILA Will gets an update about the Philippines from sister Lilybeth, brother Vladimir and son Dhiri, who last paid him a visit in December 2007.

Ode to the 'tabo' or why Juan(a) de la Cruz can't do without it

By Celine Flores-Buencamino
Contributor

YES, COUNTRIES OF THE world are merging into a global village. Technology is advancing sometimes much faster than we can cope. And the Filipino's knack to survive global with his unbeatable persistence to almost every country and in almost every field or profession. He has learned to adapt to cultures and languages, being finally labeled or cope with new adventures and challenges. One thing he has refused to let go is his touch or though is his relationship with the tabo.

The tabo is the Pinoy dipper. Back home, it has many uses apart from its main task of assisting in maintaining bathroom hygiene even in the remotest provinces where toilet paper and its use seem alien or unheard of. It is used even when water is scarce as it assures the user of just the right amount needed for bathing, cleaning dishes washing with the help of a basin, and sometimes providing water for cooking.

Back home, that PG tabo has become an unmistakable part of life that it has blended into the woodwork of the Pinoy's subconscious, so much so that being away from home and without it causes a feeling of lack is experience among many of our countrymen.

As however she called the Philippine Islands Ometeotes has identified 300 few things about being Pinoy. Among them are the tabo, which is defined as an "ill-powerful, ever-useful, hygienically triumphant device to scoop water out of a basket and help the user keep his/her answer's cool. Helps maintain our famously indulgent toilet habits."

Shared cultural habit

In encounters with Pinoys abroad—from those who have taken work as domestic helpers, caregivers, teachers and nurses to the more successful permanent residents and those who have earned enough to live comfortably, having and using the tabo is still a shared cultural habit.

One lady from Texas laughs as she recalls how her early learning days had to make her ingenious to the absence of the tabo from the paper cups, so to be fooled room glasses or bathliters she took with her from fast-food joints. She considered it luck to be booked in a hotel room with a bidet or hand shower close to the toilet. "I don't know but without it, going to the bathroom seems bitin to lacking. I missed it," she chuckles. And unsurprisingly there are many others who share similar stories, including those whose smuggling a tabo in a foreign land has been to settle what they call the inconvenience and humiliation.

The tabo has also involved many concerning about and discussions with foreigners both here and abroad. Initially, the topic brought fascination. Other questions such, "Why don't Filipinos use paper?" Sometimes, with curiosities of how primitive our culture must be. But when asked whether washing is more hygienic and cleaner than wiping, the question is often silence followed by silence or a defensive "Well..."

There are those foreigners too in Manila who have acquired the habit. Sometimes, because it is readily available to their dwelling place, or they have seen the benefits of the tabo, or merely grown into it or acquired it to class after being married to a Filipino spouse.

Whatever the reason, there are Filipinos abroad who proudly tell our and maintain a tabo wherever they are. And why not? Rather than being a source of shame or embarrassment, a New York Times editor readers paused and said, "Well, look at it this way...They can remember our perseverance for being dirty, but they will have to think twice when their person ate about Pinoys. We are tabo-goers, or more likely unique else, no one be proud that each of us is very clean."

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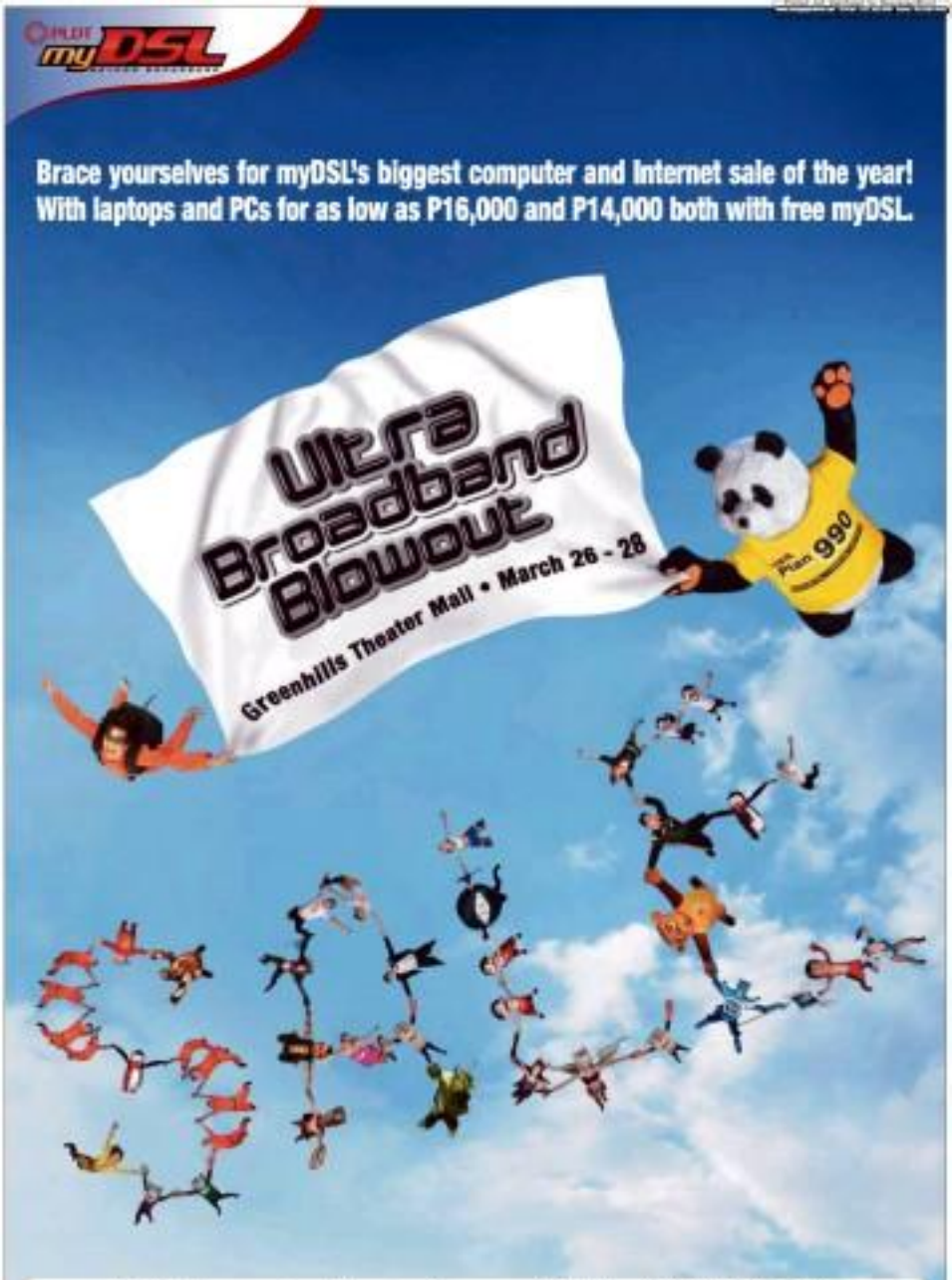

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lumicao

MANILA'S NEWEST PLAYGROUND

Lights, fantasy, music by the bay

MANILA Ocean Park's "dancing" lights. A sight to behold on a warm summer night. BOY SANTOS

By Tina G. Santos

NO NEED TO go overseas to witness a one-of-a-kind "multi-sensory" stage musical.

A new attraction that is being compared with the world-famous "Songs of the Sea" in Singapore's Sentosa offers viewers a spellbinding show that blends special technology and artful dance.

Ruby Marie Cortes, vice president for sales and marketing of Manila Ocean Park (MOP), said "Maidens of the Sea" is an open-air show with a live cast that interacts with the laser-based performances of 3D and 2D animated images "projected on six water curtains moving at 800mm.

"The well-choreographed presentation is sure to mesmerize the audience," she said. "It tells a simple, inspiring story linked up by captivating music and dramatic multimedia effects of pyrotechnics, synchronized water jets that squirt water 20 to 40 meters high, and bursts of flame."

She stressed that the show's water, light and sound effects are what sets it apart from other stage musicals.

"The dancing/moving presentation is part of the story," she said.

Cortes said Maidens of the Sea," which opened Friday, is the highlight of the newly opened section, Aquatica, which is now referred to as Manila's "Fantasy playground."

Situated by the Manila Bay area adjacent to the MOP—which also houses the first and largest aquarium facility in the Philippines—Aquatica is inspired by the ocean park's vision of being the most integrated ocean destination

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INQUIRER LEARNING

5 detained PUP studes to seek reduction of bail for their release

By Tina G. Santos

FIVE STUDENT LEADERS OF THE Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), who were earlier arrested for allegedly stealing computers from the school at the height of a protest action against tuition increases, are set to ask the Manila City Prosecutors' Office to reduce their bail from P100,000 to P20,000.

Ahmed Mandilaguan, 20, said they are mulling the filing of a motion for reduction of bail in the City Prosecutors' office on Monday as they can be incarcerated pending resolution of their detention.

Apart from Mandilaguan, Gerryann Santos, PUP central student council president Fenna Louise Tanagan, 19; Judy Anne Ribito, 19; and Dexa Conda, 18, were also arrested on Wednesday.

Charges of robbery with threat and intimidation were filed against the five after they loaded 13 armchairs into two passenger jeepneys inside the PUP campus in Sta. Mesa and took them out of the school grounds.

Manila Police District (MPD) Gen. Rizal Supnad operatives intercepted the vehicles loaded with the allegedly stolen items along Odiong Street, not far in front of the five students. A haul of P200,000 was recommended for each student.

MPD Director Assignment Section head Chief Insp. Marcelo Reyes said the incident happened around 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, when some 60 students allowed two passenger jeepneys to enter the campus in Sta. Mesa and took them straight to a JJR entertainment, which the local government unit protested, the measures were imposed notwithstanding the ordinance, rules-subject tax and withholding tax on JJR.

When the BIR Regional Office denied Makati's protest and a subsequent appeal, the LGU asked the CTA to review the case.

The CTA ruled dismissed Makati's petition, saying that City Hall failed to appeal within the regulatory period.

While City Hall is looking at further recourse against payment, Tan-Torres said it would be better if the LGU "paid in protest."

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, however, said such a move is a sign of bad faith and raises suspicions about the motives.

"The city government and the BIR have been holding discussions with the intention of arriving at an acceptable settlement. For the BIR to take such an action would be an act of bad faith. It also took one to conclude that there are other motives behind the BIR's decision to seize properties of the city government," he said.

"Unless the intention is to harass the opposition, there is no sense in the BIR filing levy against properties owned by government. It is a well-settled document that government or publicly-owned property cannot be the subject of such action. The case is still pending with the Court of Tax Appeals..." he added.

Amalia's husband faces prison term

By Nika Calleja

A MAKATI COURT HAS CONVICTED the estranged husband of actress Amalia Fuentes to one year and eight months in prison for the non-remittal of Social Security System (SSS) contributions of his five employees.

The Makati Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 62 found Joseph "Joey" Herrera, former president of Imperial Insurance Inc., along with the company's vice president, Pho Ha Sala, guilty of eight charges filed against them in 2002.

In a decision penned by Judge Cielito Echaluce, Herrera and Sala were also ordered to pay the unpaid contributions in the amount of P904, with increasing interests and penalties to SSS.

Helen Gonzales and Evangeline Salian filed the charges, when they found out that between January 1999 to May 2001 and January 1999 to July 2001, their SSS premiums amounting to P15,151, dedicated from their monthly salaries—were not remitted to the SSS.

The respondents said they failed to remit the money because of the company's financial problems.

Colpitoni, however, said the reason did not "erase the court" because an independent auditor was presented by the respondents to prove their claims.

BIR poised to seize Makati City Hall

By Raoul M. Dongallo

TO SHOW THAT IT MEANS BUSINESS, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is now looking at selling Makati City Hall for the local government's failure to remit some P1.2 billion in unpaid taxes from 1999 to 2004.

The imposing 20-story Makati City Hall building is one of the tallest on the southern bank of the Pasig River.

Revenue Commissioner Joel L. Tan-Torres said in an interview that the BIR intended to proceed with their plan "before the long break of the Holy Week."

"We will issue a statement of demand and levy in the August of March," Tan-Torres said. "We want to secure a lien on [the] City Hall [building]."

A lien is a kind of security interest granted over an item of property to secure the payment of an obligation such as a debt.

"But we assure everyone that there will be no disruption of operations at City Hall," Tan-Torres said, saying that this area not about the physical possession of the building.

However, he said that the BIR may start charging rent for the local government's continued use of the building.

In a decision dated Dec. 16, 2009, the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) ordered Makati City Hall to pay the BIR P1.01 billion in deficiency taxes for 1999 to 2001 and P217.8 million for 2002 to 2004.

Lights, fantasy, music by the bay

From page A11

that offer a unique blend of leisure activities "from sun-up to sun-down."

Apart from the standard entertainment, organizers will soon open two other attractions—the swimming and jacuzzi pools which visitors can enjoy from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and the marine life shows in the afternoon which will give visitors the opportunity to have up-close interaction with adventure animals performing exciting feats.

Enthralling experience

"When night falls, Manila of the bay will enthrall everybody," Cortes said, explaining that the whole sequence deals day to night light transformation.

He added that they find summer the perfect time to introduce MOA's latest attractions. "It's the best time for families to come here and bring their kids—most of whom are now on vacation."

"It's the first of its kind in the country," said Thet Fernandez, MOP vice president for corporate affairs. "While the show's multimedia efforts require imported technology, the original music score, stage play and performances by Filipinos," said Thet Fernandez.

The show's director, Ike Aquino, who also choreographed the story, said "Wonders of the Sea" explores the love, passion, restlessness and arrogance of humans as portrayed by the different characters in the play.

"It's a very compelling story about how we are supposed to live in balance with nature because if we don't, there are repercussions," he said. "At the same time, the story also poses simple solutions and it conveys that it takes just one person with an open heart to encourage other people to open their hearts to do something about the problem."

As co-founder of Pinoy el Mundo Theatre, Aquino said the technical side of the show "is a score in itself."

"In the past, you had to go to Singapore or Las Vegas to see something like this. This is a first here," he said. "I seem to, there will never be a dull moment during the entire 30-minute show."

Theater talents

Apart from Aquino and artist from different theater companies like the Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) and the Philippine High School of the Arts, "Wonders of the Sea," likewise boasts of talented people behind the production.

The show's stage director is Ian Segovia, an actor and choreographer who has performed for different theater festivals and conferences abroad.

Jeff Hernandez, a composer and arranger, serves as the show's musical director. Another member of Peta, he has facilitated theater workshops for school and community-based theater groups all over the country.

The show's choreographer on the ville is Gio Royeli, a contemporary dance artist who is also the movement designer of the Philippine synchronized team and a representative to the International Performing Arts Festival.

The venue, which can sit around 1,000 people, is also being considered as an outlet for other performing arts like dance and concerts, Cortes said.

"Wonders of the Sea" will run three to four shows a night. "But schedules may change if the weather is unfavorable," she quickly added.

Tickets for the show cost P250 during weekdays and P300 on weekends and holidays.

SHOWTIME: Philippine ville is on par with the world's best.

INQUIRER mobile news

INQUIRER BREAKING NEWS: No reports of damage from quake in Luzon. Phivolcs: intensity 5 in Looc, Mindoro Occ; 4, QC, Mandaluyong, Makati; 3, Rosario, Cavite, Clark in Pampanga, Bagac, Bataan and Canlubang, Laguna; 2, Calamba, Laguna.

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Locsin, Binay camp trade barbs

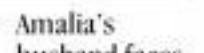
By Nika Calleja

NOT ONLY HAS SEN. TURNED HER BACK ON her longtime friend, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Eldward Boy Tecson "Teddy Boy" Locsin Jr. is also working in campaign manager for the former rival of Binay's son, Jejomar Erwin "Junjun," who is running for senator.

Locsin Jr., who is on his last term as congressman for Makati's first district, decided to support Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, who the latter said failed a calling out in November 2009.

His wife, Louie Locsin, also wants to replace him in Congress under Mercado's wing called United Action Team.

"Joy Binay and I were together for so long. But one thing I never liked about them was 'sang kaya nating gawin ito' (we can do it) attitude. Sa pulis, Juju said I am nothing. Why do they not like the people out there something?" Locsin said during Mercado's proclamation rally yesterday in the Amanda Village.



Locsin narrated an incident during a forum in the Manila Polo Club where the Binays allegedly said, "Hoy, nahuperak si Sherwin?" (How was he able to get in?)

"Who are they old jerks? As far as I know, the Binays are the ones who were born with a silver spoon in their mouth," Locsin, who vowed to do a house-to-house drive "to get the votes for Mercado."

Lito Atienza, Binay's spokesperson, said Mercado "has embarked" Locsin into joining his camp.

"Mercado did not tell Locsin the truth. When Mayor Binay decided to back Locsin in 2001, Mercado supposed it, calling Teddyboy and his son out of sun," he said. "Locsin does not know it was Mercado who lobbied against his wife because he was running for his friend Didi's behalf," he added.

2 suspected drug pushers nabbed in Taguig

TAGUIG CITY MAYOR FREDDIE TINGA lauded the action recently of two alleged pushers and the raid of a warehouse used as a drug safe house in Barangay Ususan which yielded billions of pesos worth of shabu and hi-tech paraphernalia used in the manufacture of the illegal drug.

Elements of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO)'s Regional Police Investigation Operation Unit (RPIOU) led by Supt. Levi M. Fraser recently arrested the suspects identified as William Alfonzo, alias Chalder Ly Lim, 46, and Gaudy Fu, 36, both Chinese nationals in a buy-bust operation inside a 7/11 convenience store in Brgy. Bagong Tanyag, Taguig, Thursday morning.

Police recovered about P2.8 worth of shabu from the suspects. Investigators said they were able to pinpoint the drug laboratory allegedly set up by the suspects in a Mahaway-owned house located in Ususan Subdivision.

Armed with a search warrant issued by Bureau Executive Judge Teopisto Geronimo, RPIOU, ACDF and 398SF operatives raided the warehouse. Police officers led by the personnel of RPIOU chief, Director Roberto L. Rosales and other police and local government officials.

NEVER TOO LATE

Angelito "Jett" Reyes, who was recently declared the winner in the May 2007 congressional race in the 2nd District of Taguig City by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET), takes his oath before Metro Speaker Prospero Nograles. With him are (from left): Jedd P. Reyes, Joanna Reyes, Metro Speaker Prospero Nograles and Jett's parents, Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and Reneta Reyes. The HRET declared Reyes as the winner over Henry Dumlao after an electoral protest. Reyes is running for reelection in May.

The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Quncio

Obama, Medvedev finalize landmark nuke arms treaty

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev on Friday finalized a historic new deal to cut long-range nuclear arms, slashing the number of deployed warheads by a third.

After months of intense negotiations, the pair sealed what Obama called "the most comprehensive arms control agreement in nearly two decades," as they hailed improved ties that hit a low under US President George W. Bush.

The new pact, due to be signed on April 8 in Prague by both the presidents of the former Cold War foes, replaces the landmark 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which expired in December.

In the Czech capital last year, Obama unveiled a plan to purge the world of atomic weapons by moving stockpiles, installing warning, clothing in the proliferation and searching loose nuclear material.

Obama stressed that the new START treaty was a "fundamental part of that effort" for a nuclear-free world.

He said the deal also advances his priority to "reset" ties between the two countries, which have deteriorated during former US president George W. Bush.

"We've agreed to continue our efforts against Muslim extremists in Afghanistan and on efforts to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions.

In Moscow, the Kremlin said "the presidents agreed that the new treaty marks the transfer of Russian-US cooperation to a high-level in the development of new strategic ties."

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) warmly welcomed the treaty.

"This treaty will send a powerful, unambiguous message to the rest of the world that the United States and Russia are serious about reducing the nuclear threat," the UCS's Jane Meyer said in a statement.

And the treaty couldn't be better, given President Obama is hosting an international nuclear security summit in April and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in May," he said.

Obama said the treaty "significantly reduces" US and Russian missiles and launchers, and sets up a "strong and effective" verification regime.

It specifies limits of 1,550 deployed warheads, which is about 30 percent lower than a previous upper warhead limit set in 2002.

The US said the new treaty reduces each deployed missile warhead as one, and each deployed bomber as one warhead, and under these rules, currently the United States has 1,762 warheads and Russia has 1,74[illegible].

"The treaty does not cover the thousands of warheads both countries have in storage," it said in a statement.

The treaty limits missile forces to 800 deployed and nondeployed intercontinental ballistic missile launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear weapons.

The cap on deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine-launched missiles is set at 700, the White House said. AFP

US PRESIDENT Barack Obama comments on the new START nuclear arms reduction treaty at the White House with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (left) and Defense Secretary Robert Gates on March 26. AFP

Two big wins, a presidency transformed for Obama

WASHINGTON—THIS SEEMS a week here," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs wrote on his twitter feed, as Obama concluded a new strategic arms reduction treaty in a call with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Friday.

In six days, two of the biggest projects of Obama's presidency came to fruition after months of painstaking work, transforming the image of an administration that had swung hard but failed to connect on big agenda items.

By Friday Obama could savor the spectacle of the pundits he frequently decries, switching him a "this presidency is over" mantra, to hailing him as a conquering domestic president and a global statesman.

The lofty expectations of a transformative presidency which shocked Obama when he took office amid the deepest recession since the Depression, took a little less historic, after his base went to the Pillars House.

The president has already banned a narrative that he is a leader, who has delivered the change he promised. It will still be with us when he is dead.

"It took patience. It took perseverance. But we never gave up," Obama said on Friday, referring to overseas negotiations with Russia, adding a tone he also used to describe his hard-fought healthcare victory.

He told the seasoned presidential swagger help Obama capture the momentum in a volatile election year and lead to progress on sticky foreign policy problems?

The White House noted several times this week that foreign leaders congratulated Obama on his healthcare triumph, suggesting his standing is bolstered on the global stage.

The image of a successful president is important, analysts said, and may enhance Obama's leverage on difficult issues like Iran's nuclear program, negotiations over the Middle East.

"When a president is doing badly in the US, there is less reason to hear him abroad," said Julian Zelizer, a political historian at Princeton University.

As he piloted healthcare through the fractious Congress and co-ordinated arms negotiations with Russia this week, Obama was also in the middle of a sensitive visit with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

That image of an engaged president was something Washington pundits while navigating a treacherous world may also change some minds about Obama's tenacity.

"There was a fear for many Democrats and some Republicans that, particularly in foreign policy, this was a president that was a great talker, thinker and campaigner that was not someone that is particularly tough," said Zelizer.

But while Obama may have enhanced his statesman's credentials, it seems unlikely his personality alone can shift the policy of US foes and allies, in a world where actions are climaxed by shrewd calculations of national interest.

Presidential prestige by itself is unlikely to convince China to weaken its economy, or ban to halt its nuclear program, or ease the conflict in the Middle East, or contain North Korea in spit its belligerence.

And the lofty idea that Obama's hope-fueled politics, huge popularity, exotic biography, later enhanced by a Nobel Peace Prize, could resolve the world's most pressing conflicts had already proved unfulfilled.

Commentary it also no guarantee of domestic success at home—just ask ex-president George H.W. Bush, ousted out of office in an economic downturn after engineering a soft landing for the END War and evicting Iraq from Kuwait.

A more political climate at home could prove limiting for Obama: his bitterly won healthcare victory deepened the polarization of US politics, making prospects for future legislative successes uncertain. AFP

Clergy abuse threatens to tarnish Pope's legacy

PHOTO taken on Sept. 11, 2002 shows then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany (left), now Pope Benedict XVI, with the late Pope John Paul II during Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. AP

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN IS FACING one of its gravest crises of modern times as sex abuse scandals move ever closer to Pope Benedict XVI—threatening not only his own legacy but also that of his revered predecessor.

Benedict took a stand to battle sexual crimes against children when he was still a cardinal, a papacy for years ago, disciplining a senior priest championed by the Polish pontiff and defending reform under a new policy of zero tolerance.

But the impressive remains of a woefully slow-footed Church and of a Pope who bears responsibility for allowing pedophile priests to keep their jobs.

In an editorial on Friday, the National Catholic Reporter in the United States called on Benedict to answer questions about his role "in the mismanagement" of sex abuse cases, not only in the current crisis but during his tenure in the 1980s as archbishop of Munich and then as head of the Vatican's doctrinal and disciplinary office.

It all comes down to the question of what the Pope knew and when. The answer will almost certainly determine the fate of Benedict's papacy.

As Holy Week approaches, the most solemn period on the Christian calendar, victims groups and other critics are demanding Benedict accept personal responsibility. A few say he should resign.

Some fear the crisis will alienate Catholics from the Church, with a survey in Benedict's native Germany already showing disillusion among Catholics while there is deep anger in once very Catholic Ireland.

As the climate worsens, the Vatican is showing increasing impatience and even anger, denouncing what it says is a campaign to smear the Pope.

Whereas once Bernardo, the Vatican newspaper, said this week there was a "clear and deplorable intention" to strike at Benedict "in any way."

But as attention focuses on Benedict, a perhaps thornier question looms over how much John Paul II, beloved worldwide for his inspirational charisma and courageous stand against communism, knew about sex abuse cases and whether he was too reluctant to reprimand priests.

John Paul presided over the Church when the sex abuse scandal exploded in the United States in 2002 and the Vatican was swamped with complaints and lawsuits under his leadership. Yet during most of his 26-year papacy individual dioceses and not the Vatican took sole responsibility for investigating misbehavior.

Professor Nick Cafardi, a canon and civil lawyer and former chair of the US bishops' lay review board that monitored abuse, said Benedict was "very courageous" to reverse Vatican support for the Legionaries of Christ, a sex scandal-ridden organization staunchly defended by John Paul.

John Paul was already ailing from Parkinson's disease when the US scandal erupted, a fact the pope and his aides have kept him from initially wishing to accept.

While Cardinal Bernard Law became the most high-profile church figure to fall, resigning as archbishop of Boston over the scandal, John Paul gave him a soft landing, appointing him as head of a Rome basilica and keeping him on various Vatican committees.

The world is watching. John Paul has been put on a fast track for canonhood by Benedict to cut short rule-making effort, said this week that literature who studied the Pope's life didn't find anything problematic in John Paul's handling of abuse scandals. AP

Jackson detectives found dozens of skin cream tubes

LOS ANGELES—DETECTIVES found huge quantities of general anesthetic and dozens of tubes of skin-whitening cream in Michael Jackson's home after the singer's death, search warrants revealed on Friday show.

Investigators went to Jackson's rented mansion on June 29 following a lengthy interview with his personal physician, Dr Conrad Murray, who told them he had placed a medical bag in a cupboard in a closet.

At the home, detectives found 11 containers of the powerful anesthetic propofol, cases of three empty, as well as a range of sedatives and various medical items including a box of blood pressure cuffs, according to the warrants, which were redacted and released after The Associated Press filed a legal motion.

Jackson's long 25-tooth or age 50 were ruled a homicide caused by an overdose of propofol and other sedatives. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

During their search, detectives found 10 tubes of hydroquinone and 10 tubes of Benoquin, both of which are commonly used in the treatment of a skin condition Jackson had called vitiligo. The disease causes patches of de-pigmented skin, and creams can be used to lighten skin that has retained its color to give a more even appearance.

"Some people with vitiligo get to the point where there is so much of them that to pale, it makes more sense to remove the bits that are brown," said Dr. David Sarano, assistant professor of clinical dermatology at the University of Southern California.

Benoquin is derived from hydroquinone. Though the creams can be used at the same time, it is unusual to do so, Sarano said. The medications typically come in toned-to-patient detail when used each treatment usually lasts a few months. Side effects include severe sensitivity to the sun.

"In the photos they have on pigment, they are exactly like an albino," Sarano said. AP

Challenger Allawi takes most seats in Iraq vote

BAGHDAD—SECULARIST challenger Iyad Allawi's coalition made the most seats in Iraq's election, according to preliminary results on Friday, but the tight race foreshadowed long, divisive talks to form a new government.

The cross-sectarian Iraqiya bloc headed by Allawi won 91 seats in the 325-member Council of Representatives, a result that highlighted Iraq's sectarian gulf following a vote Iraqis hoped would stabilize their country after years of war.

Allawi could be locked out of power by alliances that he would extend "hands and heart" to all groups.

"For all who want and wish to participate in building Iraq, we will together keep political sectarianism and political regionalism," he said.

Sectarian violence exploded after the last parliamentary vote in 2005 as politicians took more than five months to agree to form a new government.

Nearly three weeks after the March 7 ballot, the final preliminary results showed Maliki ruling officially and religiously divorce Baghdad and predominantly Shiite southern provinces, while Allawi dominated largely Sunni northern and western regions.

Controversy gurdles rang out in the streets of Baghdad after the results were announced.

The Iraqi National Alliance (INA), a Shiite bloc with close ties to Iran, was in third place with 70 seats. The INA, an alliance which includes pro-Ammerican cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, is negotiating a merger with Maliki's State of Law Maliki said he was on the way to forming the biggest bloc to parliament.

But any attempt to sideline Maliki by others could be needed to members of parties negotiations to form a new government could lead to resentment among Sunnis directed to the political wilderness when Iraq's majority Shiites rose to power following the 2003 US-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

The United States congratulated Iraq for carrying out a successful election, and noted both international and domestic observers had reported no signs of widespread or serious fraud.

"The results a significant milestone in the ongoing democratic development of Iraq," State Department spokesperson PJ. Crowley said.

But Maliki said he believed the results were not final.

"For sure, we will not accept these results," he told a news conference.

In Iraq Dodge, an analyst at the University of London, called the result a "damning indictment of the ruling party, the leaders that have dominated Iraqi politics for the last five years.

"We just have to see if Allawi has the international to form a government," he said.

The results released on Friday represented a 100 percent preliminary count of the votes, but the final results must be certified by a court. Reuters

ALLAWI

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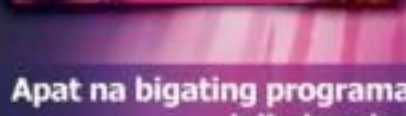

Apat na bigating programang buong pagmamalaki naming inihahandog sa inyo, Kapuso!

60 GMA years

GMA

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Alcantara, Sarmiento cop doubles crown /A24

Sunday SPORTS

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■ Thunder snap Lakers streak /A26

PSBA sensation now a certified–and decorated–cage star

By Jeanine W. Poyo

FLOODED FROM OBSCURITY. YIC Manuel certainly knew how to take advantage of the opportunity to achieve stardom.

Although a sensation at the Philippine School of Business Administration (PSBA), Manuel hardly received much recognition outside the friendly confines of the Quezon Avenue campus.

But that changed in a hurry when the 6-foot-4 forward made sure everyone would notice his talents.

The break for Manuel came when his impressive upper body strength and athleticism during the tryouts caught the eye of Phoenix Fuel Masters coach Alex Compton, who was then serving as an assistant coach for Air Conditioned Gilbert Castro.

A world-beater at the point, Manuel's effort paid off when he captured the Best Player of the Conference award during the PBL PG Thru Zone Pharmex Cup awards ceremony yesterday.

"We were lucky that the league he played in really got enough exposure, that's why we were able to see [him]," said Castro.

Manuel averaged 16.3 points—including a personal best of 27 against Imbox—and 8.7 rebounds to power the Fighting Maroons' surprisingly strong run to the Finals.

"I'm thankful to our coaches for giving me the chance," Manuel said in Filipino. "If not for my teammates, I don't wouldn't win. It's really a team effort."

Manuel also led the Mythical Team composed of Excelroof's rookie center Jon Sumalinog, Cosmo's Ryan Buenafe, Jay-R Taganas and Coke-Refresh's guards Paul Lee and Derrick Colmenares.

Sumalinog, also a key cog in last Saturday's NCAA title run, averaged 9.3

PSBA, A/4

RAISE THE ROOF While the lights look on, players, officials and supporters of Excelroof celebrate their PBL championship. ALEXIS CORCUERA

21st LANCER International Junior Tennis CHAMPIONSHIP Sidelights

PBL: Excelroof excels, sweeps Pharex for title

By Jeanine W. Poyo

THEY CELEBRATED IN DARKNESS.

But with their many shining performances, it hardly mattered as the Excelroof Elers completed a championship sweep of the Phoenix-B Complex Maroons with a 97-92 triumph in Game 3 of the PBL PG Thru Zone Pharmex Cup title series yesterday at the UBE Gym.

Cole in Alvarez and Eddie Aquino shined more in the 25ers' second-half rally from 18 points down, 63-77, in the match interrupted by brownout two times, the last when the Subic E-Clusterized team was already celebrating its championship on its midcourt.

"The players have a big fighting heart," said Excelroof coach Ato Agustin after the 25ers completed a sweep of the best-of-three series just a couple of days after his third-seeded team rose from a 17-point deficit for a thrilling 107-87 overtime victory in Game 1.

"They just won't give up," added Agustin, who relied on the same core players during his 2008 NCAA championship run with the late Sebastian Ringa. "That was the key to our victory."

Paulino Raymundo led Excelroof with 24 points, capped by four clutch free throws in the last 11.5 seconds that enabled the 25ers' precarious 93-90 advantage. The 25ers' starting point guard also had five rebounds, four assists and a couple of steals.

Alvarez, who starred in overtime during the 25ers' Game 1 triumph, scrapped 12 points and 11.5 rebounds to the series to capture the Finals' Most Valuable Player award.

And it was Alvarez's high-octane performance anew that fueled the 25ers' rally, as he unloaded 16 of his 23 points in the second half aside from grabbing 12 rebounds.

Aquino ended off nine points in the last eight minutes, including a triple that cut the lead to 78-79. He finished with 16 points.

"We made sure to stick to our game plan in the second half," said Aquino. "We continued really to set ball time. I pointed out to them that we were going step on our defense."

The game was first stalled by a power outage with 6:8 2:22 minutes left in the third half and the score tied at 36. The game resumed after 15 minutes.

The court was restored to darkness anew when the team was already whooping it up in the court.

Many others came through for the 25ers, including Adrian Celada, who added a triple that pushed the 25ers ahead for the first time in the second half, 93-91, with 4:34 minutes left.

Gilbert Bulawan also contributed on both ends during the 25ers' decisive rally.

Yo Manuel, earlier named as the Best Player of the Conference, paced the Maroons with 19 points and six rebounds, but had to sit out in crucial key stretches due to a bleeding upper lip.

The 6-foot-4 Manuel got hit by a wayward elbow while battling for a rebound late in the third quarter.

But aside from Manuel, Aquino outscored the 25ers in eighters their defense on the

PBL, A/4

Alcantara, Sarmiento cop doubles crown

ATTN: nodding not in the right competition. Alcantara didn't let his country mates down in the doubles, winning the title with Raymond Sarmiento.

By Mary Anthony Reyes

FRANCIS CASEY ALCANTARA REpeated as boys' doubles champion, this time with Fil-American partner Raymond Sarmiento, in the 21st Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior tennis championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The second-seeded tandem of Alcantara and Sarmiento downed Joey Barry of Ireland and Ben Mitchelson of New Zealand, 6-4, 6-3, to give the host country its second boys' doubles title of the week (previously, Alcantara had also won the boys' singles crown).

Alcantara, who teamed up with Ted Sarmiento to win the 2009 Mitsubishi Lancer junior doubles crown, prevailed in the same division last year with Sweden's Daniel Brato.

Sarmiento, a 17-year-old from Fremont, California, was supposed to be Alcantara's partner in the recent Australian Open but failed to join the country. Devin Clapper and Mitchelson.

After both teamed out in the third round of the boys' singles, Alcantara and Sarmiento literally patched up to regather in blasting Robin Dke of Sweden and Matthias Bachmann of Germany, 6-3, 6-3, in the semifinals last Friday.

They will keep their partnership active Japan JET next week and, hopefully, in the coming French Open.

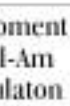
The top-seed combination of Tanasit Cacoets of Serbia and Lukdilai Kamkhaew of Thailand overpowered second seeds Jana Ekmecikova of Russia and Ekaterina of Belarus, 5-7, 6-4, [10-8], to assure the girls' doubles title.

Mitsubishi Australian James Duckworth outlasted American Dane Webb, 6-2, 7-6 (1), to reach the finals of the boys' singles for the second straight week.

Duckworth, winner in Malaysia last Sunday, advances against fifth-seed Tobias Bopp of Sweden, who downed Duckworth's compatriot Ben Bringhurst, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1, in the other semis.

Top girls' singles seed Irina Khromacheva outplayed French Caroline Garcia, 6-0, 6-2, 6-4, to seal a championship duel with Chinese Shuai Peng, who downed Thai seventh seed Luksika Kumkhaew, 6-4, 7-5, 6-1.

Big moment for Fil-Am pug Julaton



IN HUDDLE

Beth Lacsa

BOXING—

Could you think of a more exhilarating event inspiring place to watch a game on a lively Friday than the strongly close to make a movie out of a very memorable sport flick-ending?

My full attention should be focused on the Gilas Cadet-Alaska Dalupan Challenge Basketball—but my mind keeps wandering off to a faraway place in Ontario, Canada, site of the PBA-sized heavyweight title fight between Ana "The Hurricane" Julaton and Mikki Agbayani lightweight titlist Lisa "Bad Mama" Brenneke.

The story we love to tell here in the strong, hot Philippines here in the Philippines is, yes, that Fil-Am Julaton's mission is one of the wins over four-time world champion Brenneke that morning (Manila time) at the Golden Nugget in Canada.

A two-time world champion herself (WBO super bantamweight and IBA super featherweight with a 6-win, 1-loss and 1-draw record) the San Francisco-born Asian 29 years old while Brenneke, who's no more than 150 pounds in her career, is 39.

"It was should introduce this to Pinoy fans—never heard anyone like her" said Ana, regarding her sister Cordero-reflects Brenneke manager.

According to Alex, he often hangs out-duo at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles, where fitness Pacquiao also trains.

"She's a Pinoy boxer. She's very friendly and super hot," Alex said.

* * *

Describing her as a hard-working, Alex said Ana will be up against a seasoned veteran, who has the body of former track star Jackie Joyner-Kersey and fights like a female Lineburger Grimes.

And Nonoy is no spring chicken but Ana admits her first fight in an elite world boxer. She has been to many parts of the world to close the best female boxers.

Ana, on the other hand, was last seen fatal into before she turned pro boxing. She was trained in the family gym of Hollywood, a very early age, and her coach is Hoskins.

"I'm going for fans pero may bobong Pangasinan ayo," said Ana of the first Filipina forced to cast win a world title.

* * *

During the online teleconference with fans and the media, Ana was also invited to look for the DAS Penthouse early this week, one of the online videopost that Ana's coach could have also been her father-in-law.

"She's the girl Nonito he wanted for his son Bonito Jr., when now married to the former Bonito Director," disclosed our old keeper.

The sofits and Ana and Rachel are friends. They have been friends long before Nonito went into the picture.

Ana said she has no romantic involvement with someone.

She is single and right right now it is best the fitness-looking boxers, who is undefeated in her last four title fights and becomes the best pound-for-pound female boxer in the world.

Ana expressed confidence she could take on the Canadian southpaw, although perhaps not by cards.

* * *

As you read this, I should be sipping, hell, beyond coffee with GMA Network executives like Boxing chief Felipe Yalong, PR man Kenda Ortaza, even the network's top man lawyer Felipe L. Gozon and super-connected sports consultant-at-large Butch Angeli, who invited me to the live viewing of the fight in Canada at the GMA penthouse.

But I'm not. Instead I am in my room at the second floor of the Boracay Regency Hotel nursing several bumps and bruises which I sustained after I fell down (pried by Ana to also take up boxing, but my comfort had been with the slippery floor of the hotel after it was watered down and unsuggested. With all this casual on the side of my shoes when I walked on the floor, you can imagine what happened.

I hope to catch the fight which will be shown at 9p.m. today on GMA 7.

First MVP Olympics hit full throttle

By Jasmine N. Paya

1ST MVP OLYMPICS KICK OFF

Business tycoon and sports leader Manny V. Pangilinan lights the torch signaling the start of the 1st MVP Olympics with executives of companies during opening ceremonies at the Mendiola Sports Complex yesterday. PHILSTAR

SHOOTS COMBINED UNDER Sandoung Bodeftrol ng Pilipinas president and telecommunications tycoon Manny V Pangilinan was the commissioner on speech at the 1st MVP Olympics that started Friday.

PLDT Inc. Smart Communications and Maynilad FC companies vying for 26 medals in basketball, track and field, volleyball, tennis, badminton, billiards and darts.

Pangilinan, together with his top executives and the Smart Gilas national basketball team, led the opening rites highlighted by the torch-lighting ceremony Friday night at the Mendiola Sports Complex.

Mendiola captured the showdown-ing crowd, while PLDT and Smart cardinal boo women top honors.

"Well, Pangilinan's true glorious been entirely involved in promoting the value of sports and its contribution to nation-building," said Patrick Gregorio, Smart Spox in conducting brand and project director of the MVP Olympics.

Other teams seeing action in the three-day event are Metro Pacific Investments Corp., e-PLDT, Hyundai Phoenix Services Inc., TVI, Medicogent, Philex Mining, Meralco Financial Services, Goldfield Realty, Energy Development Corporation, Media Pacific, Talkmaster Corp., Sun.Star Cebu and Manila Bulletin-Metro Pool Inc.

Gonzales launches RP chess academy

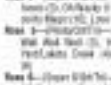
GONZALES

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMY FOR CHESS excellence was launched yesterday simultaneously with the induction of officers of the Philippine Chess Inquirer League (PhilChessL) at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Grandmaster Joseph Gonzales assumed the position of President in line with the Federation of the Philippines' objective to produce more world-class players.

NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay administered the oath of office to the new officers of the academy and the league.

Gonzales is assisted by Nelsay Jesus Guevara and Jeover Agulto. Executive Director Cabrera, Other officers: SEC Eugene Torre (chair), GM Gonzales (founding president), Boyet Tordecilla (secretary general), lawyer Gerardo Mercado (executive director), Jerome Tan Ngoho (VP-Administration), Michael John Magat (VP-External Affairs), lawyer Manuel Poblacion (VP-Internal Affairs), lawyer Bernard Tordecilla (VP-Special Projects), Oscar Gonzales (VP-Visayas), Jojo Pagbuan (VP-Organizational Development), Lorna Tabilog (VP-Marketing), Ed Mariel (VP-Media Affairs), Grace Hervel-Hall (VP-International Affairs), Esther Mayor (VP-Finance and Publications), Nini Dandan (treasurer), Dr. Gilbert Perez (auditor), Dr. Alfredo Pura (Doc), Dr. Jenny Mayor (VP for Special Projects), Bong Pagara and Rolando Ojano (special projects officer) and lawyer Geaneen Tanjuatco and lawyer Vicente Arobeda (legal counsels).



BY TOP CHOICE RYZAN GAMES LP

Reyes sizzles in Pagcor KF

MYER on the way to breaking the junior track record at Carmona Circuit.

REGISTERING THE FORM THAT gave him victory in the national championships last week-up, Francis Myer Reyes of 3rd Star-ing Indonesia returned to the Carmona Circuit to retain the junior KF1 title in Round 5 of the Pagcor KF Series.

Reyes, a graduating student from the Alvarez Grade School, set a new track record of 44.500 for the junior class during the last time trials but had to settle on eighth berth in the pre-final.

Dropping to 20 for in fifth in the opening laps, Reyes rallied to grab third place behind Indonesian Brister Simson and competitor Dupio Gucel (author) of the race.

Added by a half-time, Reyes moved up the 10-lap final behind Dupio, Isla and Gucel. When he lost setup in fuel by the fifth lap, Reyes was already hitting Brister.

Reyes, who is being supported by Dalmatian Honda from Bicol, Bonanza, Simon Racing, EBO Motorsports, and Mini Inc Engines, overtook Lyanne with 200 meters to go and finished the race in 13:50.398, just .351 of a second ahead of Indonesia. Manuel Soto of Japan took third.

MARIKINA (B NBA

Young kids from Marikina Heights to Cubao Cubao Cubao Cubao Magsaysay and Barby Jose coach Ryan Sevigne in schedule at the conclusion of the basketball clinic conducted by the JB NBA, held at the Marikina Heights gym recently. The players-schoolchildren NBA Cares after it was managed by Typhoon Ondoy. Among those that supported the JB NBA effort were Sportcity through Pristine Sports Center.

3rd GDAP Summer Golf Show up

THE COUNTRY'S TOP GOLF DEVELopers, shops, architectural, apparel makers, media and health service providers gather at the PBC Tent on April 10-11 for the third GDAP Summer Golf Show 2010.

More than 75 booths representing 40 companies will display the latest in golf club designs, as well as top of the line shoes, apparel and accessories. They will share the spotlight with companies offering the latest innovations in golf carts, fitness center and gym equipment, and golf condominium supplies.

Golf Club Builders Association of the Philippines (GBAP) president Rodel Hidalgo said, "The 2010 Summer Show will take the consumer other golf services like real estate development and other related services/products such as implants and corporate get-aways. It is truly a one-stop shop for all golf enthusiasts."

Randy Rana, GBAP secretary and Golf Show chair, added: "In the spirit of golf conglomerate an active lifestyle, we will also showcase other sports apparels and equipment, while lifestyle and wellness centers, and health products will also be on display."

Rana and Hidalgo, the event manager, assured a field movement among golf show visitors, which last year was pegged at 5, 344 individuals who paid to enter 64 lucky golf up by 32 lucky

Storey's tale continues; Hatfield joining Kings soon

By Francis TJ. Dohoa

JUST STILL ABOUT FOUR MINUTES left to Friday night's second game, first manned to file out of the Cuneta Astrodome, certain that Barangay Ginebra, trailing San Lamia, 61-77, was doomed.

"It was a bad game to watch," said coach yong Uichico of the Kings's 72-86 loss to the Realtors in the PBA Fiesta conference.

A little later, he made a slight correction.

"It was a bad game to watch, it was a bad game to play in and it was a bad game to coach," he said.

For the fans that went home early disappointed that the overall darlings failed to match their opening day victory against a powerhouse Talk N' Text squad, the question that lingered was: Was it the end of the story for the Kings' import.

Not yet. As far as the soft-spoken, celebrated champion coach is concerned, Aaron Storey is staying, despite a poor 13-point effort against the Realtors that exposed some of his weaknesses.

"Everybody has his bad game," Uichico told the locusts. "We deserve a chance to prove himself. It's just been a couple of games."

Against Sta. Lucia, the Ginebra mentor admitted that the Kings were "outdefended. Take away a couple of threepointers in the endgame and you would see that we played a good defensive game. But they out-defended us."

RUDY Hatfield (left) will rejoin Eric Pinoy in about two weeks' time.

"We've been struggling against Sta. Lucia this season," Uichico noted, after losing to the Realtors also twice in the previous tournament.

So now, he is willing to wait.

He'll wait for Storey to find the form that made his debut an impressive one and wait also for the arrival of one of the toughest forwards ever to don a Ginebra uniform, Rudy Hatfield.

"He's due in about two weeks or so," said the Kings coach.

Hatfield has already agreed in principle to play for a year for the Kings, meaning the rebounding and defensive whiz will also suit up for next year's Philippine Cup and shore up a Ginebra frontline that was pulled apart by attacks on the perimeter by the previous conference.

And in the meantime, Storey's task continues. And Uichico hopes that Friday night would be the last time fans head for the exits before the final buzzer sounds.

PSBA sensation now a star

Front page 843

points, 9.6 rebounds and 1.8 blocks.

Tagaytay led the league in rebounds at 15.5 boards/game from scoring 8.4 points to lead the Spirits to the Final Four.

Lee, eyeing assistant coach, still poised all around averages of 20.3 points, 6.2 rebounds, four assists and 1.2 steals, while Cabahug had 19.3 numbers for the semifinalist Bombers.

Although Manuel failed to lead the Illacos to the championship, the rookie, Dhempsy, native voted to stay upbeat.

"I think we showed a good fight," said Manuel. "It would have been better if we won the championship, but I'm thankful. I'm still surprised that I won the MVP."

The Enchanted Zoos captured the crown after completing a 2-1 sweep of the Illacos with a 97-92 game 2 triumph yesterday at the FIBA Flying U Arena in San Juan.

But Manuel wants another shot at the title, stating that he's looking forward to seeing no other rookie the season's second conference kicks off in two weeks.

"I want to prove my worth again and play in the PBL," said Manuel, who has two more years left in his management studies.

Meanwhile, Lee, who missed his championship against the PSBA draft, stating his preference to "strike while the iron is hot" adage.

But Manuel plans to take things in stride even as the pro league beckons.

"I don't want to rush me yet," said Manuel. "I think I still have a lot of things to learn."

PHARREX's Ric Manuel is in no hurry to turn pro.

Tigers crush Beermen, take 'Fiesta' lead

GAME TODAY: Purefoods vs. Barangay Ginebra
8 p.m.—Araneta Coliseum
(Tiebreaker: 1-0; Purefoods 2-0; Barangay Ginebra 1-1; Talk N' Text 1-1; Alaska 0-2)

By Cedelf P. Tupaz

COCA-COLA POUNDED ON THE EASILY evil of several San Miguel key players including import Godsy Feysman to back on an impressive 108-98 triumph last night that gave the Tigers the solo lead in a PBA Fiesta Cup road game presented by Phoenix Fuel at the Antero S. Laguel Gym in Olongapo City.

With Chico Lanete scoring all his 15 points in the last 12 minutes aside from pulling off four steals, the Tigers rallied from an 11-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to register their first 3-0 start in the last four tournaments.

Import James Feney also sparked the Tigers strong start with four treys in the opening period, led all Coca-Cola scorers with 23 points.

Feyenaar, the 2009 Fiesta Conference best import awardee, left the game early in the fourth period due to cramps.

Jay Montgomery, Brandon Hawkeyes and Jimmy Alapag joined Feyenaar in the sidelines after due to cramps. Dorian Pena let the elements way early when he was ejected for committing a Flagrant Foul 2 on Dennis Espino in the first quarter.

But the more telling element proved to be that of Feyenaar as the Tigers began pulling away when the San Miguel import left the game.

Lanete and Denny started in a 31-6 burst during a five-minute stretch that pushed the Tigers to a 120-91 lead.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia seeks back-to-back victories today when the Realtors clash with the Bulls at Mitsu Elastomers at the Fiesta Center in Sampaloc.

Brandon Cuffee and mates, both vying to bounce back from stinging defeats the last time out, collide in the first game at 4 p.m.

The Realtors go into the 6:30 p.m. game buoyed by their emphatic 89-72 victory over the Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings Friday night.

After exploding for 42 points in a losing effort against Bonkie Cuffee, Sta. Lucia's import Anthony Johnson scored just 22 against the Gin Kings, but his two triples late in the fourth period helped seal the outcome for the Realtors, who are locked in a five-team tie at second with a 1-1 record.

Fil-Am Julaton targets WBA women's title

FILIPINO-AMERICAN ANA "THE REBEL" Julaton used to fight in the undercard of an event headlined by Lisa "Bad Boxer" Brown.

With Julaton enhancing her status after winning two world titles, the new gig was hitting today against the same fighter in a showdown that wasn't given much thought a few years ago.

This time, the Filipino-American square off against the Canada-based Brandal and Ishigo native for the WBA female super bantamweight title at the Casino Rama in Ontario, Canada.

The fight will be aired over GMA-7 starting at 12noon today.

"I am facing the best female boxer with the best female boxing team," Julaton said at the pre-fight press conference yesterday in Ontario.

"This will be a fantastic fight that will add to another great element to female boxing."

The 29-year-old Julaton, a former WBC and IBA champion, will go into the bigger fight of her career with a 8-win, 1-loss, 1-draw record. She is coming off a unanimous decision victory over Deborah Biggers.

Armed with what her coach Nonito Donaire Sr. said as a "desire for perfection," Julaton will look to collect a big edge in experience by the 39-year-old four-time world champion who has fought some of the finest female fighters in the world in a 10-year career.

"This is really good shape, I'm ready. I come with a women's spirit," said Donaire, who has a 38-4-3 record with her hometown.

Donaire's husband-coach Errol Brown described his wife as the "best female fighter in the world."

Donaire has spoken highly of Julaton, whom he said is the ideal student. "She is just hardworking and disciplined," said Donaire, whose son Nonito Jr. is also a world champion.

"This will be a history making fight between two brains, the two best female fighters in the world." Julaton's advisor, Angelo Lanza, said.

Cedelf P. Tupaz

JULATON

TRS' Basti rocks kart scene anew

THE TEAMON RACING SCHOOL (TRS) Racing Career Management Program scored another major feat following the triumph of its protege Antonio Sebastian "Basti" Salvosa in the Mini ARDL Challenge of the Pagcor Sports 80 2-80 3 Cup series recently at the Clearwater Racetrack.

The 13-year-old Salvosa, a De La Salle-Zobel Grade 8 student, upstaged three-year champ Christian Gadd in the tight battle to claim victory in Race 6.

Gadd, who entered the competition by the Teamon Racing School, finished second with 1969.

After winding up as runner-up to Race 5, Basti was intent on winning the title against the equally determined Jolive of Gadd.

The first six laps saw Gadd leading the pack but Bautista's perseverance paid off as he pulled a big drive and grabbed the lead for the first time in the seventh lap.

Gadd regained his post on the next turn, but Basti quickly got back in front and secured his position all the way to the finish line.

Escalante clocked seven minutes and 49.379 seconds in the 10-lap race, just 0.209 of a second ahead of Gadd.

"It was really tough but I knew I could do it," said Escalante, son of chef Tony Boy and Agnes Escalante.

TRS president JP Teamon, who coached Escalante during the weekend, credited the victory to the driver's physical and racing acumen which Escalante underwent under the supervision of multi-awarded race car driver Mike Teamon through TRS Racing Career Management Program.

ESCALANTE

MULTI-TITLED coach Norman Black gives instructions to young basketball players during the Burlington-PBR camp clinic at the Ali Mall in Cubao. Burlington and the PBA have joined hands to give out a series of hoop clinics for kids this summer.

PBL: Excelroof excels . . .

Front page 823

Phoenix guards

"I told the boys that Phoenix also lives with their swingmen," said Ignacio.

After the 23rd scoring tally, Arvin Ilta guess kept the Bluemen's hopes alive with a three-pointer that trimmed the gap to 89-87 with 1:47 remaining.

Abueva and Aquino responded with back-to-back buckets to make it 93-87, but a three-point play by Ford Arao again pushed the Bluemen within striking distance, 95-90, with 33.5 seconds left.

Yapmanelo then sealed the 25ers' victory by converting four free throws after drawing fouls from Fonguzan and Jill Yrenen in the last 11.5 seconds.

"I really trained my players," said the 46-year-old Ignacio. "I had confidence on every player I fielded."

SCORING BY—Hayward 19, Mamie 22, Aquino 19, Jill Wilson 9, Yrenen 7, Gabriel 5, Sangalang 4, Morrison 4, Fonzal 3.

ECCLESTON 23—Eccleston 9, Magsanoc 5, Delgado 5, Ilta 4, Ilta 3, Ilta 3, Ilta 3

Sunday SPORTS

E-mail to: sportsdesk@inquirer.net.ph
Mobile: www.inquirer.net/sports

ARENAS: Community Service

Arenas sentenced to 30 days in halfway house

WASHINGTON—SUSPENDED Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas was ordered Friday to spend 30 days in a residence for detention prior to release for his conviction on gun charges following a locker-room confrontation with a teammate.

Along with the time on he spent in the halfway house, designed to help people reintegrate with society, District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Robert E. Morin also sentenced Arenas to 400 hours of community service, which can not be conducted at basketball clinics, plus a $1,000 fine.

Arenas apologized in court, saying, "Every day I wake up wishing it did not happen."

Arenas pleaded guilty to violating the city's gun laws on Dec. 21 (address at first) on Comet Following an argument over an unpaid gambling debt totaling a few hundred dollars, Arenas brought several guns to the team locker room and at times near Javaris Crittenton's locker with a cigar telling him to "PICK 1."

"The evidence is that both of you felt threatened," Morin told Arenas. "Rather than acting like mature adults, you escalated the incident" by bringing guns to practice.

After sentencing, Arenas' lawyer, Ken Wainstein, said he was pleased with the outcome.

Judge Morin's decision was fair and reasoned, it reflected a strong understanding of the relevant facts. Mr. Arenas is grateful to the court and looks forward to serving the community and once again being a force for good in the District of Columbia," Wainstein said in a statement.

In court papers, prosecutors said Crittenton had a legitimate reason to believe Arenas' threat was genuine.

Prosecutors had wanted Arenas to go to jail for at least three months. They said he had repeatedly shown why the guns were in the locker room and tried to cover up what had happened.

Assistant US Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh wrote in court papers that "if any other individual—without the fame, power and the wealth of this defendant—brought four firearms into Washington, D.C., for the purpose of a similar confrontation," they would surely go to jail. AP

KOBE CUFFED

Thunder snap Lakers streak

OKLAHOMA CITY—THE OKLAHOMA City Thunder put the cuffs on Kobe Bryant to snap the Los Angeles Lakers' seven-game winning streak with a 91-75 victory in the NBA Friday.

Bryant had nine turnovers and scored just 11 points as the Lakers produced their lowest scoring total of the season.

The win also ended the Thunder's 12-game losing streak to the Lakers. They had not beaten the Western Conference's top team since 2006.

"We're growing up," forward Kevin Durant, who had 26 points, told reporters. "We're maturing as a group throughout the season and I think it was a good job of showing that tonight."

Russell Westbrook added 12 for the Thunder, who sank sixth in the Western Conference playoff race behind the leading Lakers.

Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks credited guard Thabo Sefolosha's aggressive defensive play for Bryant's off night.

"If you're going to be considered one of the better defenders you have to guard the best player," Brooks said.

"You can't get your feelings hurt when you get scored on and Thabo doesn't. He wipes it away and comes back here possession with great energy and great effort."

Bryant had five turnovers in the first quarter and was just four-of-11 shooting for the game.

"They did a great job defensively, it was a team effort and they did a great job executing their game plan," Bryant said.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, The New Orleans Hornets had a chance to finish off the Nets in regulation but Chris Paul missed a 16-foot jumper with 1.2 seconds left and the game went into overtime. The Hornets then outscored the Nets 7-2 in the extra period to win 109-107.

Brook Lopez had a career-high 37 points and Y. Jordan had a career-best 21 to lead the Nets to their ninth win. For the first time this season, the Nets have won two consecutive games.

From Il New Jersey (9-62) it takes its final 30 games, it can do no worse than equal the league mark for the worst record (9-72), set by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1972-73.

Stephen Jhinn had 27 points for the Pistons, who lost their seventh in a row.

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 21 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter as host San Antonio ended Cleveland's eight-game winning streak 102-97 Monday. AFP/Reuters

OKLAHOMA City Thunder forward Kevin Durant dunks against the Los Angeles Lakers in the fourth quarter.

Tiger nervous, says former British Open champion

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—FOR PLAYERS WONdering what it will be like to play golf with Tiger Woods when he returns, Ben Curtis can speak from experience.

Curtis, a member of Lake Nona, decided to practice at Isleworth two weeks ago and wound up playing 18 holes with Woods.

"He was a bit rusty," Curtis said with a grin.

Several players have been invited to fill the awkward in the no-Woods on the golf course or to play with him when he returns to golf in two weeks at the Masters, but the unexpected close confidence of a one-on-one match made Curtis a bit the holder for months.

"Everybody that tells you that it was the same as before would be kidding themselves," Curtis said on Friday after a 67 left him in a tie for the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. "It was obviously a little bit different. When I saw him, no one had actually really seen him in public."

Curtis said he never really spent much time with Woods except for times they were in the same group.

"I didn't know him that well before, anyway," Curtis said. "But I could see where some of the guys that might have known him pretty well—like Mitch O'Meara—it might be a little different for them now than it was before. But I don't know. That's hard to say."

Curtis said Woods appeared to be nervous, perhaps because it might have been his first time playing with a US PGA Tour colleague. They were joined by Steve Johnson, the swing coach he Curtis and a disciple of Hank Haney, and a friend of Woods that Curtis did not recognize.

He said when he saw Woods a week later, he seemed more relaxed in the company of other players.

Curtis said neither kept score, and their chatter was strictly golf.

Curtis won the British Open in 2003 in Royal St. George's, a course Woods finished two shots behind to a tie for fourth. Curtis said about a 10-foot par putt on the final hole, and was on the practice range waiting for everyone else to finish when he learned he had won.

"He said I made everything, but I only made one putt that one day," Curtis said. "He seems to think I make everything." AP

VETTEL

Vettel takes Australian Grand Prix pole

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—RED BULL driver Sebastian Vettel made it back-to-back pole positions to start the new Formula One season, unsurprisingly, but not by much, as he edged Ferrari's Fernando Alonso in qualifying for the Australian Grand Prix here yesterday and Jenson Button in a Brawn.

Vettel's time of one minute 23.919 seconds around the Albert Park circuit dashed the hopes of local fans cheering for Webber, but the front-row monopoly of the grid put Red Bull in a good position to make amends for retiring just on a win in Bahrain earlier.

"It's Mark's home race, but last year he had pole in Germany, so it's kind of revenge," Vettel said. "Tomorrow it will be much more about looking at why we're because usually a lot of things happen here.

"He did not get the job done in Bahrain, so he will try to do it here."

Ferrari's Fernando Alonso, who won the season opener in Bahrain when Vettel's car sustained a mystery mechanical failure when leading the race, qualified in third place while his teammate Felipe Massa was fifth.

Separating the Ferraris was Mclaren's Jenson Button, whose teammate Lewis Hamilton added to his collection of forgettable season openers experiences by smashing out on the final session of qualifying and will start from 15th.

Hamilton had his seat car impounded by local police on Friday night for dangerous driving on his way from the circuit to the team hotel, while he was disqualified from last year's Australian Grand Prix and was banished to future find to race stewards. AP

Rochus gives Djokovic the boot; Nadal scores

KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA—With a listless, sloppy performance, the No. 2-ranked Novak Djokovic lost his opening match Friday at the Sony Ericsson Open to Olivier Rochus, 5-7, 6-7 (7), 6-4.

Djokovic's mistakes mounted, and so did the fans' frustration. Midway through the final set, when the Serb sent yet another straight shot aside, there was a collective groan and a counterclap of boos.

A short time later, when Djokovic walked off the court defeated, the jeers were louder. He made a double-up gesture in response.

"I don't feel great on the court, and everybody could see that," Djokovic said. "Life goes on, you know."

Chat with a friend

No. 4-seeded Rafael Nadal followed Djokovic into the stadium, but not to the sideline, beating American Taylor Dent, 6-4, 6-1. No. 5 Andy Roddick enjoyed a chat in the players' lounge with a friend, NFL star Terrell Owens, before defeating Igor Andreev, 6-4, 6-4.

In women's play, former No. 1 ranked Justine Henin, No. 3-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, No. 14-seeded Elena Dementieva and defending champion Victoria Azarenka advanced to the third round.

Henin, only a handful of tournaments into her comeback from retirement, beat No. 3 Elena Dementieva, 6-3, 6-2.

Wozniacki rallied past qualifier Tsvetana Pironkova, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, and Clijsters beat Petra Kvitova, 6-1, 6-1. Azarenka beat Alexandra Dulgheru, 6-1, 6-2, finishing shortly before rain began to fall, ending a 2 1/2-hour delay.

There was another delay of 50 minutes later in the afternoon.

Djokovic won the tournament in 2007 and arrived at Key Biscayne with a 13-2 win-loss record this year. But he rarely has aggressively against the diminutive Rochus, who faced Djokovic less a succession of long, grinding rallies.

"I wasn't attacking," Djokovic said. "I was just kind of waiting for him to make the shots, and it wasn't the right approach." AP

KYLE Singler (left) of the Blue Devils muscles his way to save of the 24 against Kelsey Barlow of the Purdue Boilermakers.

Duke drubs Purdue, gains NCAA 'elite 8'

HOUSTON—FOR MIDDED Duke soared into the final eight of the NCAA collegiate basketball tournament on Friday that more than the grand hoop dreams of Northern Iowa and Notre Mary's foiled away.

Duke, the No. 1 seed in the South Regional, turned back fourth-seed Purdue 78-57 behind strong defensive play and Kyle Singler's 24 points to make it past the regional semifinals for the first time in six years.

"Our execution in the second half was terrific," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski told reporters. "All three of our freshmen guys came up with big, big baskets and free throws."

Jon Scheyer added 19 points and Nolan Smith had 13 for the Blue Devils, who led by a point at intermission but scored 50 points in the second half.

Duke will play third-seeded Baylor on Sunday for a berth in the Final Four scheduled for April 3 in Indianapolis.

The national championship game will be played on April 5 in the same city.

It would be the Blue Devils' first visit to the national semifinals, called the Final Four, since 2004. Duke won national championships in 1991, 1992 and 2001.

Baylor ended Saint Mary's dream season with a 72-49 victory.

Tweh awaited Saint Mary's, a team with five Australians on their roster, had been one of the dramatic stories of the tournament after eliminating Villanova, the region's second-seed, last weekend.

LaceDarius Dunn led Baylor with 23 points with Aaron Abrahm Allen leading Saint Mary's with 16.

Ninth-seeded Northern Iowa lost to 10th-seed Michigan State 69-52 in the Midwest Regional when it failed to score a field goal in the final 10 minutes of the game. Reuters

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday BIZ

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European wine-making tradition in Benguet

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—AS a child growing up in a rural village in Croatia, Zelimir Strugar saw first-hand how his parents and grandparents would distill wines and spirits from grapes and other fruits and herbs.

He and his parents eventually migrated to Germany, where his parents sought employment and finally settled.

There, Strugar went to school and took up medicine, finally leaving behind only memories of his original rustic home village.

But the memory of that rural village in Croatia proved to be a lasting legacy for Strugar and his Filipino wife.

Since 2007 they have embarked on a home-based wine distillery business following the European tradition of using natural ingredients, most fruits locally sourced.

Strugar lives with his wife, Jocelyn Reiles, and their two daughters, grade schoolers Sarah and Shiela, atop a plateau overlooking the valley of La Trinidad, Benguet's capital town.

In doing the family's business, Strugar has capitalized on the scientific process of distilling.

Distilling is a process that goes beyond fermentation. Through fermentation, sugar contained in a wash of grains or any kind of fruit is converted into alcohol.

But distilling begins when fermented mixture is heated, causing the alcohol into vapors which are cooled down into liquid form that make up Strugar's liquor line called "Edelfriend."

"Distilling is an old art. Our ancestors, who eventually refined their skill into what is now chemistry," says Strugar.

"But as the scientist Arabs discovered, distilling is a scientific process of making something pure from something raw."

By removing quality wines and spirits can be stored for years, even decades. "Wines taste better as they age just as people are expected to grow wiser as they get older," he says.

Small wonder Strugar's two-year-old "Edelfriend" Yakas wine costs P750 a bottle.

Strugar's distilled products are a colorful array of flavors: Lemongrass, Arabica coffee, strawberries, pineapple, pomelos, guava, and other local fruits and herbs.

The only major ingredient materials for access the mix are juniper and Swedish bitters, which are available in local supermarkets.

The mixture is blended with the finest spirit of 44 percent alcohol and left to soak in a warm place for 15 days and shaken daily before it is strained and bottled.

Edelfriend is not yet being exported, but Strugar's products will briefly to Baguio's destination establishments.

Edelfriend is currently on display in this year's Strawberry Festival. Strugar says he joined the event to try to advocate clean and hygienic procedures for preparing indigenous wine.

Alcoholic beverages are actually part of Filipino culture.

Ifugaonian town in La Union is known for its local liquor rice wine); the Ilocanos for their tapuy (rice wine); and Southern Tagalog and the Visayas for their lambanog and tuba (coconut liquor).

But these traditional products have yet to reach export quality.

There is a good number of raw indigenous plants waiting to be distilled into wines and spirits, Strugar says, citing the camotes, cassava (sweet potato) and herbs used for the pito-pito, a local tea product.

Potatoes can be processed into vodka, he says, "but I won't encourage local farmers to go into this yet as they might end up with an accessible liquor commodity that would get them hooked."

Strugar advocates moderation in all things, which is why every label of Edelfriend's product has a warning: "Regular intake of any drug will destroy you, your relations, and...Therefore, your life."

CHEERS!: Zelimir Strugar has introduced new forms of libation to this year's Strawberry Festival.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD PAUL IBAY/INQUIRER.NET

THE EDELJUMANJI line has been turning quite a profit for its distiller.

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People, Events & Products

Lisa Aries Espinosa

Globe offers 'libreng tawag' during Holy Week

GLOBE, A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS company in the country, is partnering with leading transportation facilities and operators to provide free calls or "libreng tawag" during Holy Week in selected bus terminals, ports and pilgrimage areas from March 29 (Holy Tuesday) to April 1 (Maundy Thursday).

Among the partners of Globe for this effort are the Araneta Center Bus Terminal (ACBT), a main transportation hub located at the heart of Quezon City; Batangas Port Authority, which operates the Batangas Port, the key port in the Calabarzon region; Victory Liner, one of the largest and pioneering bus companies in the country, and Valiant Transit Inc, the largest land transport company in the Philippines.

The Libreng Tawag initiative will allow customers to make either 5-minute local calls or 2-minute international calls to make it easier for them to communicate to make emergency calls while traveling to the provinces.

The Libreng Tawag stations will offer free calls from March 31 to April 1 in the following areas: Victory Liner terminals in Cubao, Sampaloc, Caloocan, and Pasay; Green Star terminals in Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Santa City, and Malolos; the Batangas Port; pilgrimage areas in Cagayan De Oro, Dipolog, Cagayan Capitan, Del Monte, and Ormoc Shepherd, El Salvador, Siburan, Dimiao, and Tambongon City (Mindanao) Shrine in Brgy. Mayang-Dagat.

The Libreng Tawag stations at the Araneta Center Bus Terminal is open from March 29 to 31.

Globe is providing Libreng Tawag stations as part of Globe Bringing Connectivities (Globe BridgeConn), the corporate social responsibility program of the company.

HABITAT RECEIVES P1 MILLION FROM AYALA GROUP

Ayalaland Inc. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jaime Ongpin (left) turns over a P1-million donation to Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) Executive Director Jojo Ang-Jamora during the launching of the Habitat for Humanity Philippines' Ayala Land Build-a-Home 2009 held March 27. Habitat for Humanity, one of the beneficiaries of the Ayala Foundation, Inc., will coordinate the construction of 100 Ayala Land Build-a-Home 2009 houses in Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Batangas. Ayala Foundation, Inc. is the corporate social responsibility arm of the Ayala Group of companies. Also in photo are Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) Board of Trustees Chairman Jaime Zobel de Ayala (2nd from left), Ayala Land Inc. President and CEO Fernando Zobel de Ayala (3rd from left), Ayala Corporation Director Delfin L. Lazaro (4th from left), Ayala Land Inc. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Jaime Ongpin (5th from left), Ayala Land Inc. 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Communicating vision

NOTHING RESTRAINED AN OBganization like a clear and compelling vision. But it can be tricky to paint a picture of what's in your mind so that others can see exactly what you're seeing, before you've made it available others to glimpse your vision and how do you inspire them to adopt it?

1) Connect relationally

Leaders are often they believe the content of their vision will sweep others up by itself. Don't focus on the mechanics of your message to the point where you disregard connecting with your team. People buy into the leader before they buy into the leader's vision. Touch a person's heart before you appeal to their head and ask for a hand.

2) Simplify the message

Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has a place among the great speeches of American history, yet it was barely three minutes in length. As leader, we can learn a lot from Lincoln. When communicating vision, what you say is stupid last, but how you say it determines whether or not the message sticks. Elicit and distort your vision until it can be shared in a single sentence. The easier you can make your vision, the more memorable it will be.

3) Embody the vision

People need to see a vision to connect with it, which is why

the great communicators become imagery to amplify the power of their message. Keep telling your words more vulnerable than fact-spouting. However, the best representation of a vision comes when a leader embodies it. People cannot follow what they see that what they hear. When a leader is adamant with passion, people inevitably are attracted to the theme.

4) Prioritize influencers

Leaders treat everyone with respect, but they certainly shouldn't spend equal time connecting values to each person. To make sure your vision reaches on in your organization, put extra sharing it with key decision makers. Set up one-on-one meetings. Field questions and respond to concerns. Don't rush the process. If you convince key personnel to buy in to your vision, oftentimes they will sell it for you to the rest of the organization. On the contrary if you cannot gain their support, implementing your vision will be an uphill struggle.

5) Master the process

Speechmaking has merit, but vision casting happens daily, not just on one occasion. It's a process rather than an event. To communicate vision effectively requires intentional initiatives to keep it in the forefront of people's minds.

Once the vision begins to take shape, every victory is an opportunity to celebrate and reinforce the vision. Also, each decision must be evaluated and put into perspective for the setback. dishearten people. Unless a leader actively and continually champions a vision, with time it will evaporate.

6) Call to action

Leaders don't inspire vision to make people feel good, but rather to change something. Communicating vision should motivate people to take action by validating them to a focused strategy. The goal isn't simply to get people to aspire to a vision, but also to take responsibility for translating it into reality.

Attend I'm Inspired 2 - Real Success Revealed! with Lyle Iderton Dr. Kenneth Hufford, Francis Kong and Anthony and Michael Lara Pangilinan, May 14, 2010, from 2pm at the AMA Convention Center. Call Inspire Leadership Consultancy at 687-2614 or 709-4953 and look for Excellence award of special early bird rates and sponsorships.

MERALCO has partnered with the World Wide Fund for Nature to develop and promote a sustainable all-electric mass transportation system. Seated from left are Meralco First VP Ruben B. Benaso, Meralco Senior VP Lorenzo C. De La Llana, Meralco VP Miguel L. Lopez, WWF-Philippines President Jose Ma. Lorenzo P. Tan, WWF-Philippines Corporate Relationship Manager Chrisa C. Ofiana, and Climate Change and Energy Programme Consultant Liza C. Lim. At the back are other officers of Meralco and WWF-Philippines.

Power utility spurs use of electric jeeps

By Amy R. Remo

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO CAGE THE adverse effects of climate change have never been more urgent, spurring companies to do all they can to address these issues.

For its part, Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest power distributor, has forged an agreement with WWF (World Wildlife Foundation)-Philippines to develop and promote a sustainable all-electric mass transportation system, beginning initially on the iconic jeepney.

Although the first batch of electric jeepneys had been tested in the Philippines as early as 2007, a huge percentage of conventional jeeps are still plying the streets.

The development of eco-friendly electric jeeps is in line with the environment, oil conservation and preservation advocacies of WWF and Meralco.

"This joint project for cleaner air, which will initially focus on improving the design of existing electric jeepneys to efficiently run on electricity alone to encourage other companies similar to advocate for sustainable environmental cause, is and campaign to address global warming," WWF says.

"Meralco has continuously pursued various environmental, safety and health programs that are vigorously implemented—all for the well-being of the communities Meralco serves," says Miguel L. Lopez, Meralco VP and head of corporate marketing and communications.

"Collectively these Meralco initiatives address an array of ecological concerns including air quality improvement, energy conservation, tree planting, forest resource management, solid waste management, bio-intensive gardens, and the creation and utilization of renewable energy resources," he says in his speech during the signing ceremony.

Under the agreement, Meralco will make recommendations to WWF experts regarding the best technology that can be used in the design and development of an electric public utility vehicle, according to Meralco senior manager VP Ma Linda Dojeo.

Dojeo says the plan heads Meralco's marketing programs, says the distribution utility is initially committing P150,000 on the project. It will likewise participate with WWF in meetings with concerned local government to formalize agreements on the use of alternative vehicles in their areas.

"This long term partnership between Meralco and WWF-Philippines is truly a welcome development. As we all know, carbon dioxide emissions from gasoline and diesel powered vehicles is a major cause of air pollution which further contributes to global warming," Lopez says.

"Developing a sustainable electric transport system through a new generation of electric vehicles will help a lot in addressing climate change and global warming," he further says.

Epson targets nontraditional projector users

By Abigail L. Ho

IN THE AGE OF HIGH TECHNOLogy, LCD projectors have become ubiquitous gadgets. Gone are the days of making paper-and-pen presentations, as well as those that make use of scotch sheets placed on bulky overhead projectors. These days, LCD projectors are the norm.

Businesses are not the only ones taking advantage of this technology. Many schools have shifted from traditional blackboard and whiteboard instruction use to computer-generated presentations. Churches are using projectors during masses and services, while government officials use it for meetings and presentations as well.

Even home users are starting to see the benefits of having their own projectors for stay-at-home DVD marathons.

Ronald Kubota, chief executive for the visual communications operations division of Japan's Seiko Epson Corp., relates that businesses contribute to make up the biggest chunk of the company's projector business. However, there is a thrust to also create demand for homes.

"There is more room to grow than ever before for our projector business," he says. "We're doing great on the entry-level to professional categories, but we want to be No. 1 in all segments."

Top spot

According to Epson's in-house estimates, using independent market research data, the company's global market share for projectors from April-September 2009 is pegged at 22.7 percent.

Third-party consulting firm Futuresource, on the other hand, places Epson's share of the projector market in Asia and the Pacific, excluding Japan, at 13 percent.

In both instances, Epson trumps all other projector brands.

Here in the Philippines, Futuresource data shows that Epson holds a 26.2-percent share of the projector market, mostly in the corporate sector, giving it another five-place finish.

Epson Philippines Corp. (EPC), which first made a name for itself in the country through its dot-matrix printers, believes it can grow its market share for projectors to 28 percent for this fiscal year, which starts in April and ends in March 2011.

The 4-percentage-point projected growth is attributed mainly to an expected sales volume increase in the corporate and retail markets in the Greater Manila Area, as well as in the company's provincial market.

A whopping 70 percent of the sales growth projection will come from corporate clients in Greater Manila. 28 percent from retail customers also in the GMA, and 30 percent from Southern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Direct engagements

Since Epson is obviously not the only projector brand in the local market, EPC product manager Lyn Lizardo says the company will step up its marketing efforts this year to reach its growth targets.

She relates that the company will continue its brief "direct end-user engagements" through trainings on the advantages of the company's proprietary 3LCD projector technology, as well as through technology updates with its distributors, dealers and resellers, and even end-users.

Epson's proprietary 3LCD technology differs mainly from the more common one-chip DLP (digital light processing) technology in that it uses three chips—one each for the primary colors red, green and blue—to resolve electronic signals instead of the latter's one chip.

The effect is that even with the use of less lamp light, which in effect consumes less power, the images that are produced by 3LCD projectors appear to be more vivid and lifelike.

Apart from direct engagements, EPC will likewise maintain product placements or key concept stores, as the Octagon store at SM Megamall and Greenhills, the corporate and store-in-store shops at SM Megamall and Trinoma, and the corporate and store-in-Epson projectors in the retail storefront," Lizardo says.

Globally, Epson regional product management division director Yukihiro Kanai says the company will enhance its sales network, and upgrade its products, for corporate and education sectors, both of which are heavy projector users.

Epson expresses confidence that with Epson's wide range of projector offerings, it will be able to cover the corporate, education, and entertainment markets.

Most outstanding finance educator is from Bohol

THE 2009-2010 Finex-Citi Rafael Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educators (OFE) awardees with AIM Professor Lucio Tan (center).

FINEX Citi Rafael Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educators (OFE) National Awardee Michael P. Catarata (4th from left) of Holy Name University in Tagbilaran, Bohol receives the award from National Treasurer Roberto Tan, Citi Country Officer Sanjib Mishra, OFE chair Cesar Buenaventura, BAP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. and Finex Foundation chair Robert Qua-Enriquez.

MICHAEL "MIKE" CATARATA, an Associate Professor from Holy Name University in Tagbilaran, Bohol was proclaimed National Winner of the 2009-2010 Finex-Citi Rafael Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educators (OFE) Awards.

Other outstanding finance professors were honored during the awarding ceremonies held recently at the Executive Boardroom Center of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in Manila.

The Citi Rafael Buenaventura Outstanding Finance Educators Awards is a joint project of Finex Foundation and Citi Philippines and funded by Citi Foundation. Launched in July 2007, the OFE awards aims to: 1) complement the country's investment promotion and to actively promote financial education as an important component of tertiary education that will make finance educators and undergraduates more globally competitive. The awards program also aims to inspire other college teachers to achieve excellence in teaching profession in line with best practices by business and industry.

This year's OFE winners are: Dr. Emelina Cruz of the Technological Institute of the Philippines (Outstanding Finance educator for NCR); Fr. Aloy Nakpil of St. La Salle University-Dasmariñas (Luzon); Michael Catarata (Visayas) and Dr. Virginia Lourdes Tiongson of Xavier University (Mindanao).

Catarata was chosen the National Winner and Most Outstanding Finance Educator for 2009-2010. Members of the board of judges are Cesar Buenaventura (Managing Partner-BDP Financial Services), Amando Tetangco Jr. (BSP Governor), Officer-in-Charge Nestor Espenilla Jr. (BSP Manila), Hon. Roberto Tan (Deputy Governor), Bureau of Treasury), Gerardo Ablaza, Jr. (Senior Managing Director, Ayala Corporation), Roberto Buenaventura (Chairman, Finex Foundation), Dr. Libertad Amo (SEC Director IV), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Hilario Tan (Professor, Asian Institute of Management).

The awards program was nurtured after the late and former Central Bank Gov. Rafael Buenaventura in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the finance and banking industry not just in the Philippines but in the Asia Pacific region as well. He is the only Filipino who became the Country Officer of Citi Philippines and a top graduate of Citibank's prestigious Executive Development Program. He was a prominent banker and as Central Bank Governor, seven-gloved key policy reforms during his watch fostered vital growth in a time when political upheavals often dampened the country's economic progress. He had twice been named one of the world's top 10 Central Bankers by Global Finance. He was also the first Central Bank banker who was awarded "Central Bank Governor of the Year for the Asian Region by the Banker Magazine, most publication of Financial Times. Simultaneously also chose him as one of the "Titans of Asia" Awardees in 2003.

"Citi recognizes that when it comes to managing financial resources, knowledge is the greatest asset, and in today's complex world, financial literacy has become a critical life skill. Hence, we believe the role of finance educators is

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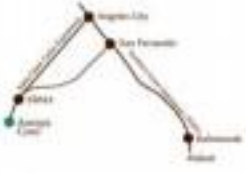

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ANVAYA COVE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ In the Bahuyan Isles, a most beautiful sound—whales singing /C4

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Lito Thelma Simon San Juan

GMA's midnight appointments terrorize culture scene

AFTER THE SUPREME Court allowed her to appoint the next Chief Justice, President Macapagal-Arroyo has issued a spate of midnight appointments in the boards of the National Museum (NM) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Larry Henares was named chair of the National Museum, replacing businessman Antonio Calasanjan, a move said Calasanjan was not told he had been replaced.

The new board met last week at Malacañang and elected Malacañang Museum director, replacing Cora Alviña.

At CCP the new board members appointed by the President reportedly tried to usurp the chair, but an advertising exec Emily Abrera, has failed.

The Palace recently appointed five new members to the board of the CCP: the President's provincemate Antonio S. Sy, resident of Dalton College in Makati; Ivi, Pampanga and formerly a partner at SyCip, Gorres Velayo & Co.; the director Arsenio "Nick" Lizaso; Ateneo De Manila University professor Gabriel Mo. J. Lopez; Abbot Diode Mo. Diosdado Catanico y Encanabo. Philippine Star columnist and charter-change supporter Carmen Navarro Pedrosa; and composer Lutgardo "Jerry" Bland.

All the new appointments are identified with Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, who holds concurrent positions as executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and presidential adviser on culture and the arts.

The President snubbed till a hunt last year when she named Alvarez National Artist for Theater. As an NCCA official, Alvarez was forbidden by the National Artist selection rules from being nominated due to conflict of interest.

Curiously enough, the new CCP appointments have replaced the CCP's trio of National Artists Awards: Jaime Laya, Nes Jardin, Bobi Gonzalez, Tessie Lee and Lorna Kapunan.

Critics said the new appointments were Malacañang's way of getting back at the CCP for the National Artists Awards fiasco last year.

'There's no such thing as life-work balance'

Five power women talk about success and how to find meaning in it

By Anna A. Jurnicos

DON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING more than a train ban; just ask for equality. You're going to bring your work at home—deal with it. You'll work twice as hard to earn that recognition—accept it," said lawyer and women's rights advocate Katrina Legarda.

Legarda was among five of the country's influential women in a forum dubbed "Success in the City" to celebrate Women's Month.

Hosted by HSBC Group Communications and Ilid Bluewood, the event had a panel composed of the first female appointed Secretary of Finance Juanita Amatong, president of ZenDesi Asia Corp. Michelle Asanza, ABS-CBN head of News and Current Affairs Maria Ressa, Philippine Daily Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, and Legarda.

HSBC EVP and head of group communications and corporate sustainability Johanna Garcia moderated the discussion.

In the Philippines, women comprise 60 percent of the workforce. In HSBC, women comprise 65 percent of the bank's management positions.

"Success in the City" is the third installment of HSBC's initiative to empower its women workforce. The aim is for women to learn life's lessons from other women, reach out to help other women, and be motivated by inspiring stories from other women.

Bit of a rebel

Former Finance Secretary Amatong, who said she was a bit of a rebel in her youth, was certainly way ahead of her time. She took up pre-law at Silliman University just to "annoy my father," before eventually shifting to Commerce. As a female born to a Chinese family, she was expected to sit behind the cash register of their shop while her brothers took care of the business.

Instead, she took a teaching job in the university and got a scholarship to pursue graduate studies at Syracuse University, New York, where she took up Public Finance. Fiercely independent and strong-willed, Amatong said, "When you are secretary of Finance, you will be taken seriously."

"You need to have a clear definition of success for you. Don't let society dictate that for you. You have to know what you love, and what you have to give up to get what you love," said Ressa.

Ressa was the Jakarta bureau chief for CNN International before moving to ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs. As the first woman and first non-white correspondent of CNN outside the US, things were rough at the start, especially for a broadcast journalist where, she said, your looks must be accepted.

But looks and being a woman were the advantage of Michelle Asanza, who has grown her brand of fragrances and body care products into two stand-alone stores at Glorietta and Shangri-La Mall and more than 90 kiosks in the Philippines.

Most of her suppliers were men, she said, so that in her early days in the business, when she didn't own a car, many would even pick her up and give her a ride.

"I charmed my way through," she said, laughing.

PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, second from left, with HSBC EVP Johanna Garcia, former Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, HSBC Phils. president and CEO Mark Wickleson, lawyer Katrina Legarda and Michelle Asanza

KATRINA Legarda

SANDY Prieto-Romualdez

JUANITA Amatong

MARIA Ressa

MICHELLE Asanza

Living while working

But is there a formula to finding a balance between living and working?

"There's no such thing as life-work balance. Seriously. Those slogans you've seen, they're not true. You can't have it all. You're living as you're working," said Romualdez.

As president of the country's biz, 3 newspapers and mother of three boys, she said she sometimes have to work at 3 a.m. because that's the only time she could do a specific task. Sacrifices must be made.

"When I was starting, I worked 36 hours a day for 12 years. I didn't have a life. I didn't even know how I got pregnant," Legarda said as the audience of around 150 at Manila Polo Club burst into laughter.

That's why, Ressa said, it is very important for a woman to know what exactly she needs and what makes her happy. A clear definition of those will make the sacrifices worthwhile.

Meanwhile, "Diversity is a very important part of our DNA," the executive director of HSBC Phils. president and CEO Mark Wickleson said.

"SUCCESS in the City" open forum at the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Forbes, Makati City, had an audience of over 150 people

How do you heal a broken heart?

THE FIRST GENTLEMAN HAS JUST HAD another year in his heart.

I was trolling this when the 6.3 earthquake rocked Manila Thursday. A few minutes after, I wrote on Facebook: "An earthquake just rocked the city and the 911 line just been rushed to the hospital due to hysterics received by yours truly. Earthquake. :)"

Imagine the barrage of comments it drew, but I shall not dwell on that. The state of his heart and health got me thinking again about how the brain, heart and emotions are interlinked.

Dr. John Kennedy, author of "The 15-Minute Heart Cure: The Natural Way to Instant Stress and Heal your Heart," says stress is tied on the heart because when the "flight or fight response" is triggered, adrenal and cortisol are released into the body and these have deleterious effects on the heart, blood pressure, inflammation, and so on.

Kennedy, director of Preventive Cardiology and Wellness at Marina del Rey Hospital in California, says that the last year he has given countless talks to doctors on the benefits of reducing stress.

"Of the last 3,000 of these I asked: If emotional stress precipitates heart disease, well, 3,000 out of 3,000 agree. The emotions impact morbidity and mortality. We all agree. There is absolutely no question," Kennedy stressed in a recent interview but added, "However, when I asked these same docs what we do to teach our patients to reduce stress ... zero. Not one doctor was teaching his patients how to do this. Doctors don't actually get paid to do that and also don't have much time to do this. We are taught that a lot of stuff is just in your head. In fact, we are taught that psychiatry isn't real medicine."

Best-selling author Louise Hay writes in her book, "How To Heal Your Life" that the heart is the center of joy and seat of emotions in our lives. She says that our entire life's blood flows through your heart, arteries, and veins is linked to the degree in which joy flows through your life.

"Cholesterol-blocked arteries symbolize a blocking of the flow of joy, or a suppression of emotion. Heart attacks happen when all the joy has been squeezed out of your heart in favor of the pursuit of money, position, or materialistic gain."

Medical intuitive and neuropsychiatrist Mendina Schetz says that unresolved and unexpressed anger, sadness, and fear can cause constriction, a tightening of the blood vessels connected to the heart.

"When you feel anger or fear, those blood vessels constrict in response to an unpleasant

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Cariello

or dangerous event. This constriction is the opposite of relaxation. Over time, the constriction can lead to a heart attack," she explains. "This is not to say, though, that you should never feel fear or anger. Feeling and expressing all emotions in a balanced way is essential to heart health."

In her book, "Awakening Intuition" Schetz says we must move with our emotions. "If you don't move with your emotion, the emotion will go into your body and store the cells of your organs instead, possibly to the person of illness."

MVP heart

There was a period in my life when I was constantly having heart palpitations for unknown reasons. Perhaps, at that time, I had yet refused to deal with. The doctor attributed it to a case of Mitral Valve Prolapse (MVP). My heart is not MVP in that sense, having won and lost many battles over the years.

Another doctor said there was some deep chemistry in my heart.

The episodes got me thinking about my emotions and the issues causing it. It was only when I was brave enough to deal with my problems that the pains in my heart began to settle down and I have been asymptomatic since.

When I had found a way to express my emotions in a healthier manner, my heart became calm and settled.

Expressing one's emotions in a healthy manner benefits not only one's heart but one's relationships as well. Of course when you learn to express your emotions, relationships can sometimes get complicated, but often, the complication is worth the trouble, better than having to grin and bear it. Healing the breadth and depth of emotions—happiness, joy, anger, grief, sadness, fear—and exposing them in a healthy manner will strengthen your heart, expand your spirit, grow your courage and help make your life an adventurous world living.

Presidential candidate Nepomuceno Aquino says, "We should all pray for everyone who is sick." Yes still. But perhaps, now is a good time for the 911 and his significant other to address the deeper issues that may have caused the life-threatening war in his heart.

E-mail the author at ucbyhelen@gmail.com

400 people to join dawn procession at Field of Faith sanctuary

A SACRIFICIAL DAWN PROCESSION on Good Friday from three different points in Calamba, Laguna, will converge in front of the Cenacle Station of the Cross at the Field of Faith Sanctuary in Sitio Dayo, Lot by Mrs. Crespito, parish priest, the procession is expected to gather at least 400 people this last year. He will celebrate Mass and lead culminating prayers. Sanctuary owner Monsignor Ricardo Pamilar Ruiz said over they only expected 200 people, as they prepared 200 meals for her. But 400 came, so they cut the bread into half and all the people were fed. It was like the miracle of the loaves and fish.

At 9:30 a.m. of the same day, Ubi based parish priest Nelio Montano and Jamecor school TV host Bicol Amorsolo will walk on the "journey from homeless to redeemed." They will share tools in understanding one's losses and pains.

Those coming to the sanctuary as early as 4:00 a.m. will go into the Labyrinth Walk. The labyrinth was a prayer and meditation tool used by the early Christians to symbolize their journey to the Holy Land. Today, the labyrinth enables one to make a spiritual journey toward reconciliation.

Other highlights for reflection and prayer are a 7.89-metre Rosary path, Stations of the Cross, chapel with our Lady of Sorrows and sacred, free access, contact Carlos Singson at 0917-8151588, e-mail field_of_faith@yahoo.com; text Mene Quinto at 0919-2781604.

Seven Last Words on Channel 7

Rev. Ben Gruba of SBC Pentecostal will hold the Seven Last Words on April 2, Good Friday, 12 noon-3 p.m., on Channel 9. Viewers can find out more. Author is interested in Bible Studies. The year's theme is "I am the Church, I am the Change". Fr. Ado Sap, DD, is host.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcia

Speakers are Fr. Erick Asuncion, parish priest, Sto. Niño Church in Tondo (1st Week); Fr. Rodge Cruz, SVD, San Carlos Seminary Parish in Mabalacat, Pampanga (2nd Week); Fr. Francis Montero, Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo (3rd Week); Fr. Ken Elmar of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Lipa, Batangas (4th Week); Fr. Jay Aquino of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Cubao, Palanan (5th Week); Fr. Raniel Cajipe, Jing of San Guillermo Parish in Bacolor, Pampanga (6th Week); and Bishop Chito Tagle of Our Lady of the Pillar Cathedral in Imus, Cavite (7th Week).

Sponsors are Rotarian General Insurance, Pasiljan Coats, Emmail Plastic Inc., Gilbert Shoes, Alyssa Quesada, Syscom, Bayani Oil and Landers Mobil Gulf.

Footprints in New York'

Fr. Tirso Dino, who has propagated the devotion to San Lorenzo Ruiz among Filipinos in the United States for the past 25 years, has come up with the book "San Lorenzo Ruiz: Footprints in New York." Sorol Publishing, New York, managed by couple Nicholas and Victoria Macorro, will launch the book in Manila at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on April 7. Bishop Mesolia 5 p.m. Cardinal Rosales will be the guest of honor.

Anlawagan ministry

Pedro Alfonso, editor of www.anlawagan.com, is excited from London saying that his group has asked seven priests to give their reflections on the Seven Last Words. For the past two years, Alfonso has been sending me information on the Anlawagan Ministry which he and his friends, mostly Filipinos, put up to spread the Word of God through the Internet.

The priests include Fr. Joel Jimeno of the Archdiocese of Manila, Dagupan; Bishop Rolly del Rosario, Cubao; Fr. Shay Cullen if previous you Oral today you will be with Me in Paradise; Fr. Jay Dalangin (He is your son... She is your Mother); Fr. Jerry Tabacunera, MCCJ (My God, my God, why did you abandon me?); Fr. Jesus Tesalla, CssR (I am thirsty); Fr. Rudy de Ocampo (It is finished); and Gilmo Santiago Rosario Cagahan (Father, in your hands I commend my Spirit). Log on to www.anlawagan.com starting March 26.

Vhita Iglesia

The Institut in Created Union will do the [illegible] on Maundy Thursday. Churches mostly visited are the iconic Church and Basilica of the miraculous Conception in Malolos; and those in Hagonoy, Calumpit, Bulacan, Bocaue, San Rafael, San Miguel, Sto. Maria, Obando and Angat.

There are also religious shrines like The Divine Mercy National Shrine in Marilao and the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in San José del Monte. In Pampanga, there are the churches in San Fernando, Lubao, Angeles, Bacolor, Apalit, Macabebe, Candaba, Porac, and Betis (where the church is regarded as the country's counterpart to the Sistine Chapel because of its stunning paintings on the ceiling).

A must-visit is Monumento de Tarlac in San José where the Bells of the Time Cross is replicated. Casa dinner of the Bells are the Bread of the Santa Cruz headed by Fr. Archie Cortes in prior. Other significant churches are in Pampa, Gerding, Tarlac and some towns in Zambales.

Stations of the Cross

Through the initiative of Fr. Fredel Agustin and Bro. Oper Spiritus Sanctus Sobero, the centennial Grotto and Landscaping of the Stations/Stations of the Cross in Villa Theresa Reserved Grotto (VTRG) in Muntinlupa, Solano, Cagayan, had been completed in time for the Holy Week celebrations. The station of the Risen Christ is on top of the hill where the centennial Grotto and the Clergy Perpetual Name of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao are located. Archbishop Talamayan will celebrate at the Retirement House Chapel the solemnized Rite of the True Cross of Christ, which he inherited from Papal Nuncio Bruno Torpigliani. For more information, please contact: Fr. Fredel (0917-6158974) or Fr. Austin (0917-5761594).

FR. BRIAN Chua (3rd from right) poses with members of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Global Ministry: Linda and Nilo Cinemanes, Geraldine Tiongson-Ortiz, Jess Ocaring, Sonia Atabay and Dr. Federico Macaraeg.

Unfaithful mom now comes home sick

DEAR EMILY,

My parents separated 12 years ago after our youngest sibling got married. They're in their mid-60s. My father caught my mother having an affair now decently when she unknowingly left some incriminating messages lying around. In one, she wrote that the other guy in the love of her life and though she found out he's been having other affairs, she has accepted him with her love.

Before my parents even had their confrontation, she just told my father she was leaving. He begged her not to because he said everyone makes mistakes. But she said that as her way out to love. Also, she left our house and got her own place. Her secretary lived with her.

He assumed she went on with their relationship. Five years later, she says she's bored with sincere life before, who we think is a saint, brought her home after her operation to recuperate. She stayed for two months until she could move to her own. She cannot remarried last year, and again, my father insisted that after her choice, she should recover at home.

She never denied her thoughts with anyone until I caught her crying quietly. I asked her if she'd want to see her husband. She said she'd be not comfortable since he lost treatment. But will phone him not been charged since she came back home, and she's never used the landline at home, too.

She said she will never make the lover think she shouldn't because she didn't want to hurt our father anymore. She said he has suffered enough pain from her infidelities. She says she sees never seen a very unhappy woman.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcos

shocked by conversation.

I.I.

Sir, isn't it right that your mother has to suffer a triple whammy: turmoil she could—pain from her cancer, pain from not saying goodbye to her lover, and pain from the guilt of giving your father an insult/pain.

Though your father would probably advise her to come back to him for the sake, she has decided on her own than she knew she can do for your father is to give him a semblance of having gotten her back to the deal—the family wholly again, no matter if there's a small thing hovering around her now—the death?

Appearances is completely the end. That's respect she is showing your father, as matter how unsentimental and painful it sounds.

Please tell children of our parents, we are still academics in a roundabout way in this conservative town, we are still down to basic morals. Lovers have no true veterans know all the real reasons that's what's expected of them. Have love? Protect them from any sense? Think of what people will say?

Your mother couldn't have prevented herself from falling in love, just as you cannot stop a baby from crying. It's real. It's crazy, it's terrible.

But that's life. Take it or leave it.

E-mail: emarcos@inquirer.com.ph; Join join Lifestyle

Follow Christ's footsteps at Calvary Hills, Cagayan

CALVARY HILLS OF IGUIG houses of 21 bas-reliefs of striking terracotta relief sculptural tableaux rising six meters high depict the 14 Stations of the Cross.

Created in 1982 following the idea of parish priest Rogelio Cortez, the statues are colorful and life-like, providing a memorable destination for Lent. The statues stretch on the hillside behind a church, San Antonio de Galaxo, one of the few remaining Catholic churches in the country that escaped destruction.

The Church of San Antonio de Galaxo is a masterpiece in bricks.

Just take a bus from East Avenue, Quezon, to mount Banahaw in Tuguegarao.

From Tuguegarao, it is easy to take a tricycle to reach Iguig. Tuguegarao has many hotels to choose from. Ako Hotel Rosa, which is right in the heart of the city, Far Eastern Lines's East Avenue terminal for schedules for Tuguegarao, call (0917) 8816 or (02) 8926.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

In the Babuyan Isles, a most beautiful sound —whales singing

By Karla Vizcarra
Contributor

IN THESE LANDS, THERE IS still real and very rare wealth.

The trees are for mats, nubas, baskets, containers, incenses and bonsais. Children ride windmills, while carabaos cuddle over on the neighbors, to the small church or the green rice fields, filling the air with their friendly queries. "Ngaweil Jun?" (Are you going home?) and "Siyanan?" (Where are you off to?)

Inside our tiny volunteer quarters, where pads are filled with more for bathing, candles lit and packed up, fishermen are assembled for the night, the crew is breathtaking the silhouette of the unfortunate large Pomacan island, the small fishing boats, the quiet rendezvous of the sea.

Every day, our bonkisan attaches a bit of fresh bait at the end of a string and tosses it overboard, as our glide back and forth between the little isles of Calayan. I know of the Calayan Reefs and Fuga. There are days when the huge dorado fish—locally known as the "treasure of the ocean"—never stop biting.

These lands are the babies, or foster habitat, of some of the most diverse species of marine mammals in the Philippines, including the humpback whales.

Black mass

On our first day out in our tiny wooden boat, just as the sun was beginning to set and our legs beginning to numb, our whale blew.

There was a spray of water, a sort of prehistoric bellowing sound, a huge black mass. Then what appeared to be a wrinkled tip of a dorsal fin appeared, followed by that beautiful, humongous tail, suspended in the air for a few breathless seconds before disappearing again into the depths.

She was as big as our boat.

Our hope in the northern realm, hundreds of kilometers away from our digitized, auto-wired, uploaded and downloaded way organized by mountain ranges and lands and a flower and harmless sea, the humpbacks come to sing.

They come for the winter's warmth, carrying babies in their bellies or nursing young ones by their sides. They guide their massive bodies out of the sea and crash back to earth.

It is the single most haunting sound I've ever heard... But unmanaged tourism could also ruin that sound one day

dives flap their flippers and slap their tails. Sometimes, they lift their heads vertically and stop there—of rewarding their necks. And they swish it so—a train of four of their loudly horned humans, furiously scribbling down and documenting their every moves. Boring, I'm sure they're thinking.

Every summer, mothers and calves, males and females, young and adults come to our shores and do fascinating things—things we do not understand and perhaps never will.

Mother nature's finest that these are whales from the warmer North Pacific reach their migrate in these waters to breed and give birth, before nature's resources preserve inside down off to the colder climates to feed.

Exuberant behavior

In between such serious tasks, as well as a gamut of other unexplainable, exuberant behaviors, these humpback whales sing, and it is the single most expressive, most haunting, most chillingly beautiful sound I have ever heard in my life.

It is not known for certain why the humpbacks sing. It's been theorized that the males sing to attract mates or compete with each other, or that females sing to establish contact with their young. But perhaps they sing just because they are free.

At least for now in here, there are no commercial tourists, no threading of satellites or anything and everything that moves. There are no motors rudely intruding upon evening sessions, no roaring after dolphins like maddened Captain Ahabs.

And unless a genuinely competent, well-organized and well-researched system for responsible human-cetacean interaction is set in these islands, there shouldn't be.

The expedition head and volunteers of the yearly Humpback Whale Survey could not emphasize it strongly enough. The last thing anyone wants is for the Babuyan Isles to end up like Oceanic and Pamilacan, where whale-watching tours are encouraged, disorganized and obviously dangerous for both the cetaceans and the communities.

Responsible tourism

Much work is in store. The notion of proper whale-watching guidelines, responsible tourism and community preparedness in these areas have been largely scratched. Since losing regular funding in 2007, the survey has had to severely cut costs: there are shorter survey periods, smaller survey boats and a smaller number of volunteers paying for their own expenses.

But every year, the journey is made, and every year, the whales still come.

Ironically, the only way to save these magnificent creatures is to make sure that "tourism" doesn't scare them away.

Volunteers for the expedition and help monitor and record the distribution, abundance and migratory patterns of the humpback whales in our country. Contact Dr. Ann Archer at jcmarsh@yahoo.com for more details.

ERRATUM

Last Sunday's travel story, "Enchanting Anawangin," (March 21, page G 1) should have carried the byline of Karla Vizcarra instead of Karla Delgado. We regret the error.

More interesting reads for the hot days

No big vacation planned this Holy Week? Don't fret. These books can keep you company

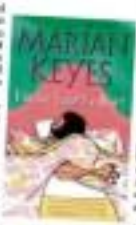
By Pam Pastor

NEED A LITTLE EXCITEMENT? Want to be inspired? Live vicariously through the lives of those strong women. Who knows, they may inspire you to step out of your shell and do great things too.

'Around the World in 80 Dates' by Jennifer Cox

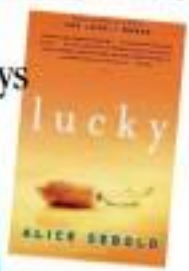
What. Who says you're going to find your soulmate in your own country? Travel journalist Jennifer Cox learns her candidates are not gone on an 80-date spree with everyone all over the world in a quest to find real love. This book is one enjoyable ride. There are good dates and bad ones and you will find yourself cheering Jennifer on as she tries to figure out if Date No. 35 really is "The One."

Who will love it. Anyone who's ever gone on a date—good or bad.



'Further Under the Duvet' by Marian Keyes

What. In her follow-up to the hit "Under the Duvet," Irish author Marian Keyes slips further under the covers and brings us one a collection of essays that is as charming and witty as her first one. In this book, Marian takes you everywhere—from Sussex to Shopping.



dates—and explores the world of free makeup, noisy hotel neighbors and Chunky Kit Kats.

Who will love it. Anyone who has any of the following: a husband, too many boutiques, an insatiable desire to shop, a love for chick lit, a sense of humor.

'Lucky: A Memoir' by Alice Sebold

What. When Alice Sebold, the best-selling author of "The Lovely Bones," was a college freshman, she was attacked and raped but was told by policemen she was "lucky" because she lived. She courageously shares the story of her ordeal in this book—from her trips to the courtroom—to see the ways she tried to deal with her pain. Like "The Lovely Bones," "Lucky" is heart-wrenching but is also uplifting. You will be inspired by Alice Sebold's strength and be emboldened by the realization that she has managed to leave her pain behind and live a happier future.

Who will love it. Anyone who's felt any kind of pain, anyone who knows what it's like to have to pick up the pieces

Tid-bits Briefs

Richmonde's Easter promo

Today until April 6, local residents and foreigners with a valid ACR can avail of Richmonde's Easter Hoppy Rates. Room rates start at P1,800 and for an overnight stay with buffet breakfast for two adults and two children 5 years old and below. Room rates drop to as low as P3,600 net when staying for two or more consecutive nights. Bookany of One and Two-Bedroom Suites will have a full kitchen, living room area and dining facilities.

On April 4, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Richmonde Hotel Ortigas International Estate, complete with choice of cool tea, hot tea or coffee for P1,200 net per person. Children 5 years old and below eat for free while children 6 to 12 years of age get 50 percent discount.

Farm-Taste Easter Adventure will be held at Sonsivas Fishbowl Sycamore Function Room on Easter Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Call 838-7777.

Easter Caribbean adventure

Diamond Hotel presents the Easter Caribbean Adventure.

Have the kids wear a pirate costume for a chance to win a spectacular voyage starting at the Diamond Ballroom at 10 a.m. and sails to the 2nd floor for the Treasure Hunt at 2:30-5 p.m., where little buccaneers may win Sony PSP3 and Nintendo 3D Lite.

From March 30-April 4, relax in a Superior room overnight. The promo includes buffet breakfast for two at Palm Court Cafe, complimentary selected items from the mini bar, three-hour free Inbound access in the room, 20 percent off on food and beverage, 15 percent off on massage services, complimentary use of the swimming pool, and free access for one child per room, per stay).

Get P1,300 off for Easter room access.

Summer treats

Enjoy a slice of summer at Traders Hotel Manila, where is offering the coolest summer sale on Rooms and Dining.

Choose from any of the following incredible offers: Extra Night (book two nights and get one night free) and Extra Room (book two rooms for an overnight stay and get one room for free).

Room rates start from P5,800 net per night. The promo is valid until May 31, perfect for your family or barkada vacation.

On Easter Sunday, come to Trader's Lakeside restaurant for a delightful Easter Brunch. The buffet brunch costs P800 net per person (30 percent off the regular buffet price of P960 net). For reservations, call 833-7811 or (02) 8245-0001 or e-mail reservations.manila@shangri-la.com.

Holy Week special

An Electrifying Easter Getaway awaits guests at Fun Pacific Manila. Offered from March 29-April 4, stay two nights for a guaranteed upgrade to the next room category or book a Suite and have complimentary pre-dinner cocktails for two.

The Holy Week special starts at P4,000 net per room per night on single, or double sharing with full buffet breakfast, bag of Easter goodies, among others.

On April 4, kids and kids-at-heart are up for an Electrifying Easter Hunt at the Conference Suite for only P600 net per person. They include an all-day access to the swimming pool, kiddie area and buffet will be following drinks at the Conference Suite with lots of games, prizes and surprises. Call 636-8788.

when kids avail of lunch or dinner at any of Diamond Hotel's restaurants until April 4.

The Easter Car Driver Adventure will be held April 4 at the Diamond Ballroom. Call 525-3000/525-3888 or e-mail hotelinfo@diamondhotel.com.

Ermita's Altar of Repose takes on environmental cause

THE TRADITIONAL "VISITA IGLESIA" happens on Holy Thursday, in which parish churches celebrate Lenten penitence culminating in the Blessed Sacrament being enshrined at the Altar of Repose for veneration by the faithful until the midnight hours.

Church organizations hold overnight vigils before the altar in prayer and reflection.

Churches across the country each usher in their own interpretation of the Altar of Repose, a trip around the many churches in the Manila will show you many designs, from the simple to the flamboyant, for their Altar of Repose.

One of the more distinctive churches is the Archdiocesan Shrine of Señor Sto. de Gato in Ermita. The church is very simple from the outside, what is hidden within could easily be La Scala, the Milan opera house, or Buckingham Palace.

Ermita Church has always availed itself the services of well-known interior and liturgical designers. For 2010, Adriano is to fly himself Altar of Repose.

He have seen through the past three decades the varying styles and interpretations Adriano has done for the altar of Ermita. Adriano, who is well-known for his baroque and Florence styles, outdoes himself in this year's design of Ermita's altar of Repose.

The design is in line with the Church's call for men to respect nature and of the many lines in our liturgical instructions.

Adriano presents a very simple visual message.

Here, "I am the water of life, he who drinks from me will never thirst." And second: "Thou art living and on this rock, I shall build my church."

Adriano's better way to visually present the contents of the Eucharist then is Adriano's design for Ermita's Altar of Repose. He ran a garden setting, with realistic foliage, and flowers placed at strategic points to make the whole tableau visually stunning and conducive to contemplation on the mystery of the Eucharist.

The altar emphasizes the Church's call for man to respect nature. To protect and enhance nature, which is God's continuing creation, a gift to man.

To accentuate this theme, Adriano adds flowing water, the "source of life" constant to flow from the rock garden, presenting another Biblical motif: "He who drinks from me will never thirst."

Over and beyond and of the very entire is the tabernacle that houses the sacrifice.

Christ himself is the center of our love, our devotion. Placed in strategic points are blooms to serve as a visual representation of the mystery of the Passion and the eventual resurrection that is Easter Sunday.

Having grown up right behind the church's main altar, Adriano is a "former" in the parish. Beginning as an altar boy to being one the presidents of the Parish Pastoral Council, he still is the "commodore" or caretaker of the image and its regalia. A position, traditionally held by seniors, Adriano is the only male caretaker of the image.

The Adriano family began their small business business in the environs of Ermita Church. Adriano began his devotion to the Virgin at an early age through the encouragement of his late mother, Rosario Adriano. She was active in church organizations, especially active in charitable works and activities of the parish.

Adriano continues to design for churches and other orchestrated houses needing his expertise. He, however, accepts commissions for interior and landscape design services. He is currently a member of the Board of Examiners with the Professional Regulation Commission for Interior Design and a member of the Philippine Institute of Interior Design.

ALTAR of Repose design duties

TONY Adriano

Bobol resort makes luxury affordable this summer

THE PEACOCK GARDEN LUXURY Resort and Spa in Buclison, Bohol, announces its big summer promo called Life of Luxury. The all-in packages offer luxurious accommodations and food treats at affordable prices. The package runs from as P6,280 net for one person in a Superior Room to P12,820 net for two guests in the Peacock Suite. In between, there is the Deluxe Room for P8,680 net and the Premier Room for P9,200 net.

Each Life of Luxury package includes chaise welcome drinks and fruit basket, full-board meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), complimentary coffee and tea, round trip land transfers, five shuttle access to and from Alona Beach, one spa treatment, complimentary entrance to Hall's Park, and free use of resort facilities including infinity pool, gym and recreation center, children's playground, Wi-Fi, and limousine-type Cajio Lounge.

Guests staying for two nights have a choice of either a Dolphin Tour or Pamilacan Island Tour, while those staying for three nights can avail of both tours.

In addition to the Life in Luxury Packages, Peacock Garden also offers promotional rates for its guest rooms. The romantic Superior Room is now available only P4,480, Deluxe Room at P5,080, Premier Room at P7,200, and the Peacock Suite at P15,360. All rates are net and include round-trip transfers, welcome drink and fruit tray, and complimentary breakfast for two persons.

Peacock Garden Luxury Resort and Spa is located 15 minutes from Tagbilaran City at Upper Love, Buclison, Bohol. For inquiries and reservations, call (+63 38) 5359021 or mobile (+63 917 5126690). Visit their blog or to www.thepeacockgarden.com.

Easter activities for families

THIS LENT, STAY AT MARRIOTT Hotel Manila, on March 28-April 4. It's a minimum of two nights, here's a daily buffet breakfast for two at the Manet Café. Avail of Sir-offs and get two tickets to the Easter egg hunt for free. On April 4, The hotel will hold an eventful activities.

From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., host and international food will be offered in a buffet at Manet Café. In line with the season, the cuisine features Easter specialties and special dessert corners. Also get a free ticket to the Easter egg hunt when you avail of this buffet.

Kids will be treated to fun-filled and action-packed activities from 2-4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. For P500 net, kids can enter a world of a honeymoon-inspired Easter Egg hunt and play with bouncy inflatables, participate in egg hunting, egg painting, magic tricks, face painting. Treats from Monterey and Magnolia Chicken plus goodie bags filled with Hershey's, Oreo Cheesepie, Dipdilt from Told Gil Magazine, and Star Paper Stationery will be given away.

Marriott Hotel Manila is located in Newport City across NAIA Terminal 3. The hotel is a 15-minute drive from Bonifacio Global City and Makati Business District. It has 342 exquisite guest rooms that offer luxurious bedding, high-speed Internet, 40" full high-definition LCDs with DTV and the entry to Marriott Lock pack plug-and-play system. Hotel facilities include Qiora spa, an inviting fitness and a Grand Ballroom, five restaurants, outdoor pool and health club. Call 980.9999 or visit reservations.com.manila.

CHOPSTICKS Restaurant

Fresh food that's just around the corner

Enjoy the fresh fruit salad bar this summer at Savemore West Service Road

Savemore's fresh section offers affordable fruit juices and salads

Tetrex guard' glass panels keep fresh items safe

Ready-to-cook breaded meat products for people on the go

For most moms, there's nothing like making scrumdidy dishes with the freshest fish, meat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables. That's how the family's well-loved stinging, menu and sometimes the housemaid, have to wake up early to get to the wet market.

Thankfully, there's Savemore Market that offers a more convenient way to shop as it provides not just the freshest food items but also grocery items, as well as Tam-Ba-Kwow stores, daily. What's more, it's located just around the corner.

Savemore is the add to a neighborhood mini-supermarket that keeps the SM advantages as pertinent nearer to where shoppers live and work. It offers the same benefits that people have come to expect from an SM store: great merchandise selection, value for money, safety and convenience, and consistent customer service with a smile from courteous and well-reliable staff.

SM Supermarket's brother

Savemore stores are considered small versions of SM supermarkets because they occupy an area of not more than 3,000 square meters, yet they offer a wide variety of competitively priced wet market products, grocery items, and other merchandises found in large SM supermarkets.

Savemore's "Yellow Tag" promo also gives shoppers a chance to win instant prizes everyday in the yellow game. Plus, SM Bonus products are available at Savemore. Shoppers can buy high-quality yet affordable supermarket items.

Modern wet market

One of the best features of Savemore is its fresh section where discriminating shoppers can find a great selection of the freshest fish, meat, poultry, fruits, and vegetables - all in a clean and air-conditioned environment.

The fresh section boasts of "tetrex guard" glass panels that keep food items safe and prevent them from being exposed to bacteria or virus as shoppers go around choosing the items out.

Shoppers can be sure to get their money's worth for all their items purchased because they are weighed personally. At Savemore weighing scales are tested and given a seal to accurate weight by the local government.

Savemore also offers fresh fruit juices and fruit salad in the cup and fresh and vegetables by the grams to make it convenient and affordable for health buffs to keep them diet.

For those always on the go, the fresh section also offers ready-to-cook items such as breaded meat products, pork chop, pork tonkatsu, chicken pandesi, and pasted ingredients for traditional Filipino dishes such as sinigang, pandesi, and bbqs.

Meat items stay clean and safe in cool temperatures

SM Bonus chicken pandesi is a must-try at Savemore Market

More Savemore branches to open

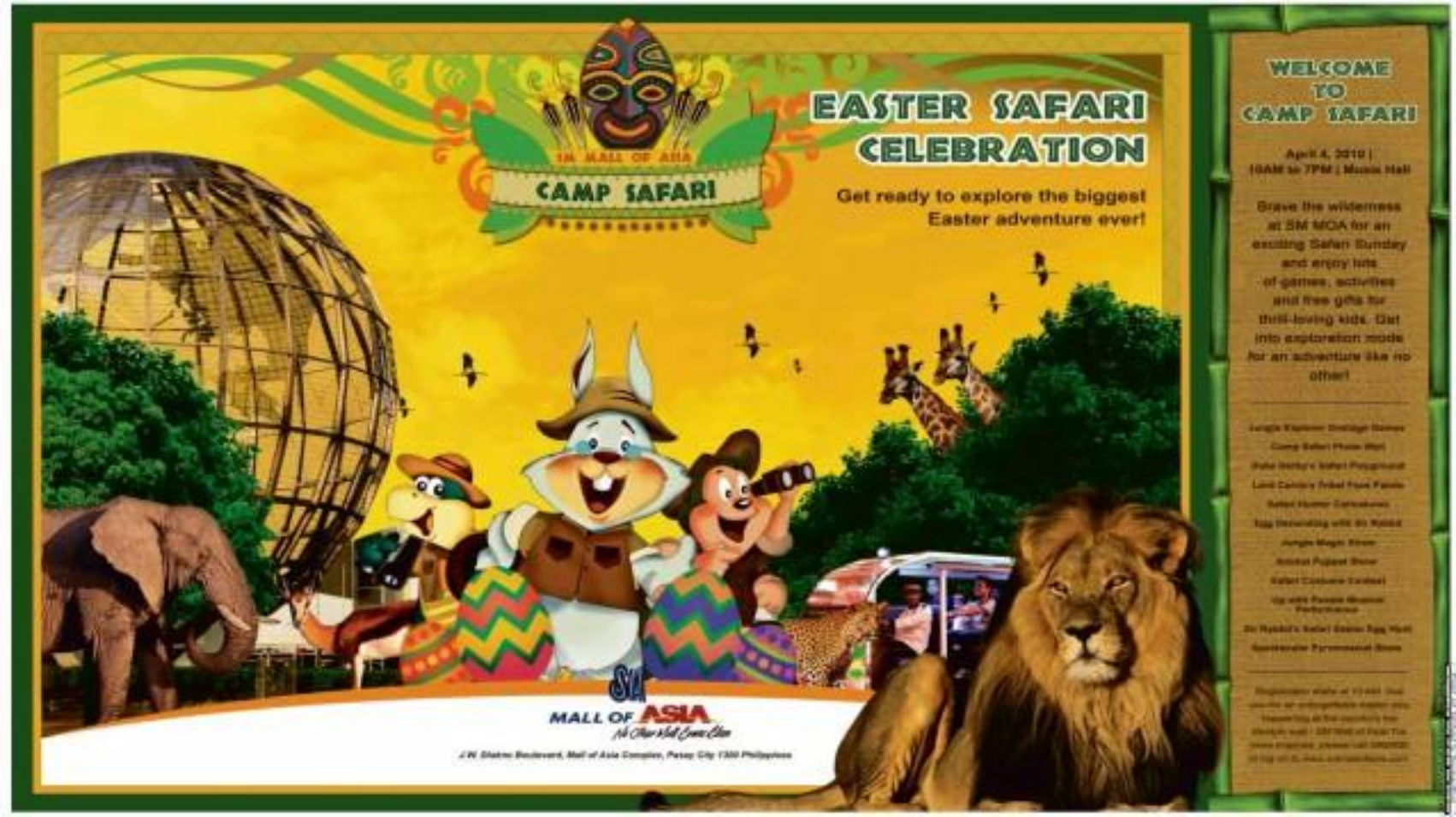
The Savemore Market chain is one set to put up more branches it has areas of the country to serve the growing communities of fresh food items.

Savemore just recently opened its branch in the neighborhood of Mandurriao in Iloilo City, which serves businesses from 8am to 8pm daily.

On March 20, 2010, Savemore Mandaue in Tagaytay City will formally open to the public at 9:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

Marinated bangus

Savemore's wide selection of fresh seafoods are perfect for the holy week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IN THIS ISSUE
■ The last days of Jesus around the Philippines /P1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUITE CITY GETAWAY AT ASCOTT MAKATI

PHP9,725 nett per night

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Living out of a suitcase this summer

Maybe if I buy my husband an Hermès tie, he'd reciprocate by getting me a Birkin bag

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

IT SEEMS LIKE I HAVE been living out of a suitcase all March long. Packing and unpacking are now my favorite hobbies.

My two daughters have also been bitten by the travel bug, but all of us are on different zone dreams so it is a very unbalanced family summer vis-à-vis.

My 12-year-old Anak ka is off in Jakarta with her softball team. Little Albeus is in Australia with his grandparents. I was off to visit South America with my favorite traveling companions, Isabel Lopez, Maia Gandara, Baja Lozada and me. In between reining up sales on Philippine Airlines, I managed to attend the most awaited luxury brand store launch this year, Hermès Manila. The store showcases the brand's combination of exclusivity and intimacy in enchanted forms as exquisite bags and luggage, shawls and small leather goods, footwear and watches.

Dynamic Marie Robitaille, Hermès' country manager, was quite surprised to witness how Hermès-crazy Manila is, especially when it comes to coveted leather goods like the handmade Birkins and Kellys. He boasts that such product carries precious materials, exquisite craftsmanship and inspired concept.

The part of Makati Avenue along Greenbelt 4 hosting the shop was closed exclusively for the launch. After hearing a Birkin... guests could walk to the iconic Museum, guided by great badges put up for the evening. The night at the museum featured flowing champagne and cocktails by The Peninsula Manila.

Fashionably late as always, I arrived just in time to meet good friend Mylene Go of Mitsubishi Day Business Bureau. She has been a wonderful supporter of all my charitable projects and promises to be no generous this year. The only thing Hermès-ers are short on is time to meet, greet and flirting champagne and cocktails by The Peninsula Manila.

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At the Museum, I met Hermès executives Bertrand Hicheud and David Gonzalez, the latter sporting a classy eyelet-lacing two-tilling shoe. I

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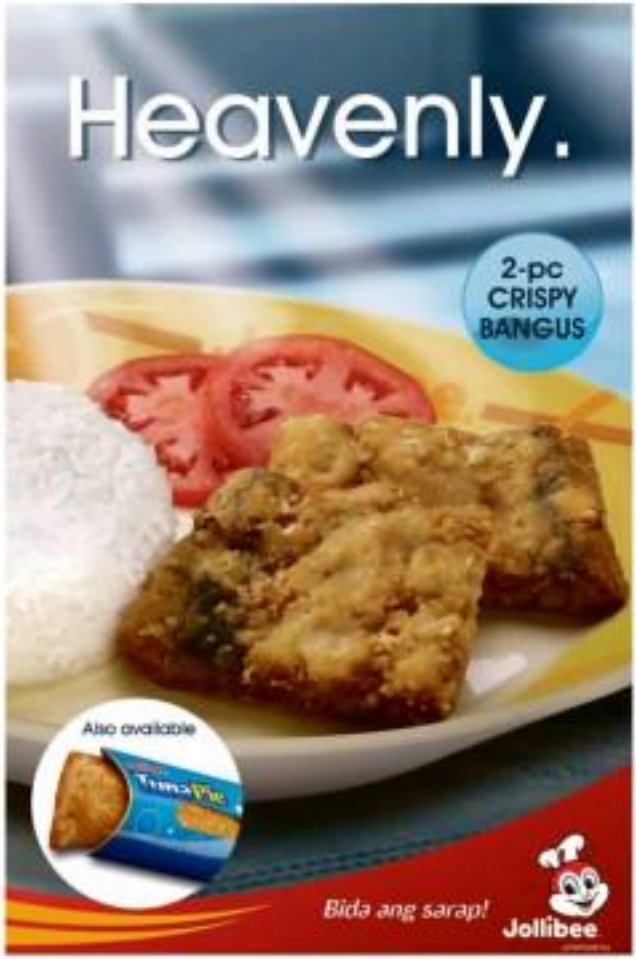

Try the NEW FUN-SARAP CRUNCH of real porkchop!
PORKCHOPS

HERMÈS bag lovers Mylene Co, Bethel Chong, Arlene Ong, Sheridyn Reyes Tan and Angela de Leon

FREVIEW style writers Daryl Chong, Pauline Juan, Leah Carlegal, Tara Santos, Sam Bautista, Vinna Uy, Bea Soriano and Raymund Gutierrez

HERMÈS' Bertrand Michaud, SSI's Anton Huang and Marie Karighak

Living out of a suitcase this summer

From page D1

FRONT Alexandra Silva, Grace Singson, Marina Manganti, Kyle Tinga, Katrina Salao, Cristina Abcede, Sharon Chan, Anna Geisinger and Gennaelle Zamora. Back: Rafael Litam, Luigi Guingon, Kaiser Ip, Raul Reyes, Paolo Agustil, Juan Andap Sajnani Duque, Harley Bangayan, Jon Kinanan, Eddy Kinnanan

OLGA Mariel, Fortune Ledesma, Wilhelm Dierks and Agnes Hulkenhaus

MEIKSHA Goigle, Veuds and Lucianna Prose of Italian Embassy; Aurora Aklan; and Manuel Perez Hurtos, charge d' affaires of Venezuelan Embassy

thought it would be a perfect gift for my husband Dennis, who runs internet casinos. Maybe if I buy him one, he would reciprocate by getting me a Hilton bag.

Top 10 debutantes

That evening, I had fun chatting with one of our city's top charitable forces, First Lady of Taguig Sonya Binga. Sonya's daughter Kyle was recently part of the Johann Strauss Waltz Society's Debutante Ball held at the Manila Opera House, a white lace ball gown designed by Dennis Lustico.

Kyle was one of Manila's Top 10 Debutantes, who were all presented in a series of waltzes escorted by handsome young gentlemen. The pairs trained for weeks under the wing of Austrian choreographer Rotraut Maidek.

All the debutantes, looking pristine and ladylike in their white ball gowns, were presented with paparazzi-style photographs. This year's debutantes list included Francesca Salcedo-Lanza, Irena Guingon, Theresa Chua, Grace Michelle Singson, Alessandra Aduca, Maria Monica Mongardi, Bernadette Zamora, Maria Cristina Medina, Katrina Salao and, of course, Kyle Tinga.

The strains of Viennese music as the Johann Strauss Society of the Philippines party-goers the event a unique ambience. It was all beautifully performed, with just the right romantic dramatic audience, by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra. The Full PPO, under the baton of maestro conductor Dr. Ernani Fluvial, began the concert with arias by top Filipino classical singers Rachelle Gonzales, Lemuel de la Cruz and Andrew Fernando.

Indeed, the Vienna Opera Ball is one of the highlights of the country's social season. Not just a cultural event, the affair strengthens the Philippines' historical and cultural ties with Europe.

TRAVELERS friends Anton Barreiro, Emilio Pacoscoli, Nina Almogan, Sea Princess, Leah Carlegal, HSBC's Cai Avelino and Leah Pupos

It is likewise a charitable endeavor that continuously supports the beautification of the society for the past years. These include the Manila Hilt Rehabilitation Center, the Melanie Foundation Mother and Child Project, the Child Hope Street Education Programme and the Republican to Cabanatuan Relocating Project.

Johann Strauss Society president Olga Mantel said that every penny goes to charity and she happily thanked the event's sponsors, flanked by her join chairs Agnes Hufenbecker and Cristina Bellaso. Chronicling the event was their partner, Philippine Tatler.

My Pilipinas Moleskine

With all the traveling plans for the summer, I am thrilled to think of putting all my experiences down in a journal. I found the perfect travel book in the launch of the limited-edition My Pilipinas Moleskine yesterday.

The My Pilipinas Moleskine is the latest partnership between National Bookstore and Collectors CI. The two marketing powerhouses got together to create a patriotic journal.

TV host Stephen Onofre Paez hosted the event at the Rockwell Mall, and 2009 CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida was guest of honor. National Book Store's Teresa Almoguera and Collectors CI's Joey Qua both talked about how excited they were to get one country's iconic map on a Moleskine notebook.

CI, as everyone knows, is the innovative brand that first put the map on T-shirts, in partnership with creative designer Rhett Eala. Their particular idea is a fantastic way of showing how proud we are to be Pinoy.

At the launch, the new My Pilipinas clothing line of Rhett was premiered in an impressive fashion show that was highlighted by a finale featuring the unveiling of the limited-edition My Pilipinas Moleskine.

Artwork created of Moleskine was proudly voted that the Moleskine notebook has had many famous users, including Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso and Ernest Hemingway. And now, all budding Pinoy writers can get one, too.

As for my own Moleskine, it goes right in to my bag along with a bunch of CI map shirts, the perfect giveaways to present our country as I escape around Manila Polo Club with my girl friends.

E-mail the author at [email]

MELODY Chuanmo, Jane Kingsu-chong and Xavi Zamora watch model wearing barro mask

FRENCH Ambassador Thierry Benjacle Mauvis, Sunrise Manila and Bertrand Michaud of Hermes

RUSTAM'S Michael Huang, Raymond and Anna Rufino

MES regional manager and MES Foundation chair Trina Alimbuyan, 2009 CNN Hero of the Year Efren Peñaflorida, Collectors CI creative director Rhett Eala and Armain Gamer of Planning Unit, Moleskine distributor in Asia

SEA PRINCESS with Joey Qua, managing director of Collectors CI

CI MODELS Jo Ann Bisagni, Patricia Prieto, Sea Princess designer Mimi Eala and new "it" girl Pamela Prieto

XANDRA Ramos and Myrna Tiano

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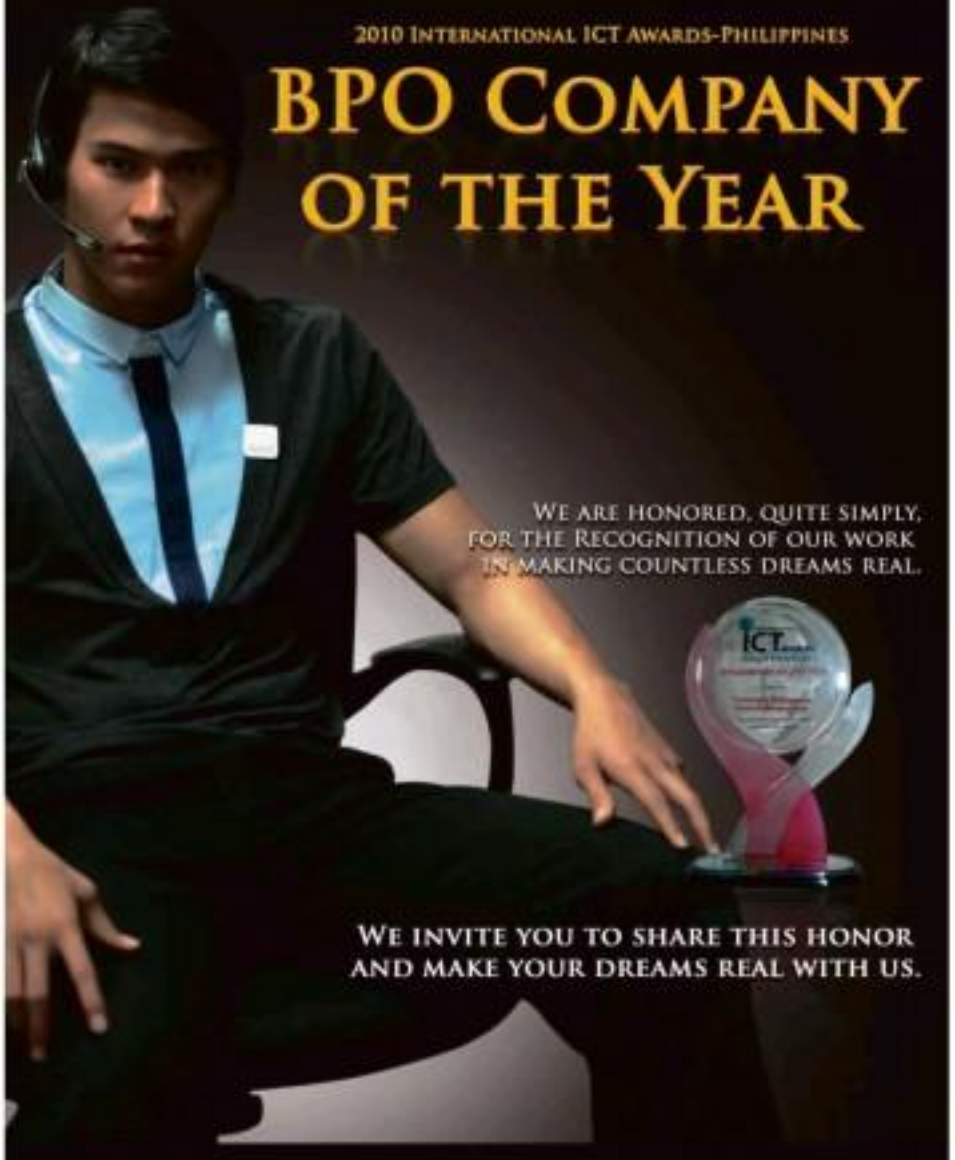

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Kyla Q. Mahaliel
Third Year High School

Do Young People Know Ninoy Aquino?
A Young Contributor

Aside from having his picture on the Five Hundred Peso Bill, an airport named after him and a son running for President, I am not sure what the Filipino youth know about Ninoy Aquino. Most of my generation is so young that we do not even remember the Martial Law Era. Or maybe we are just too busy trying to get ahead that we forget that someone paid the price so we could make our own decisions. A few months ago, I only had a vague idea of who Ninoy was, how he suffered and what he sacrificed all for the sake of our freedom to determine our own future.

Then I found the Ninoy Cory phone. At first I was just attracted by its fun yellow color and its cool qwerty keypad. The images of Ninoy and Cory and the "I Am Ninoy Quezon" make a definite collector's item for me. But what really amazed me was the yellow ribbon icon in the middle of the menu. Not knowing what it was, I clicked on it and found myself going into time travel with Ninoy and Cory Aquino.

I was amazed by all the audio recordings of prayers were in the phone! Admittedly I am not really too familiar with the prayers from my youth but I found myself praying along with this soothing lady's voice as she prayed the rosary in the phone context. This, along with the literary Of The Cross, special blessings and other prayers, are recorded with an equally soothing music bed. It almost felt like Cory was praying with me. I heard, that Cory and Ninoy agreed to pray the rosary together every night even though they were separated by jail. By the way, don't get scared if it starts praying like Angelus and the Three O'Clock Hatol by itself, its not haunted, just set as alarm even if the phone is off.

I was so moved by the audio interviews where Cory told the story of her own struggles to keeping the family together while she hung onto her Ninoy in jail. I can't imagine how anyone's family could survive under such stress! I was amazed at the video of Tita Cory and the standing ovation she got when she addressed the US Congress. It really made me proud to be 'pinoy'! Now I also understand both Ninoy and Cory's values that enabled them to be so committed to their sacrifice for the sake of the Filipino.

It is the hope of young people like me that our new leaders will have the same commitment to our people with no thought of personal gain. It's only when we the younger generation, hear the stories of bravery and self-sacrifice of our leaders, develop our own hope that we can will change our future and care enough to sacrifice for the sake of our country too. Maybe if we all learn and be inspired by the example of Ninoy and Cory, we can inspire future generations too.

That's why I am so touched by the Ninoy Cory Phone and am thankful to the people who made the effort to put all that information about Ninoy and Cory Aquino on the phone. Its not just a phone, its a part of who I am!

IN THIS ISSUE
■ GMA's midnight appointments terrorize culture scene /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE SANTA Rosa de Lima Parish is one of the oldest communities in the city. Chit has been active in the preservation of the Baroque church.

CHIT with prominent Sta. Rosa residents Conchita Delfino, Antonia Trongco and brother Ramon Lijauco at the Trongco ancestral house owned by Richard M. Trongco

Why Chit Lijauco is drawn to Santa Rosa

CHIT at the Gaudioso House in Sta. Rosa, which houses historical treasures like pre-Hispanic jars and post-War antiques from the collection of architect Mario Zaballa, as well as rare artifacts from the Tang Ying porcelain dynasties, which were found in the area of Barrio Colgan. "There are so many experiences I have had in Sta. Rosa that have been helpful in shaping me as a writer. There are a lot of memories there—like harvesting cotton from trees to stuff our pillows, or of the bericks...our town market...some of which are endangered or we're not in existence anymore. That is why one of the things I plan to do in the future is chronicle all these slowly disappearing pleasures of rustic life."

CHIT LIJAUCO'S WORK AS managing editor of Philippine Tatler Magazine and Rotary District governor for district 3820 for 2000-2010 has brought her places.

Yet, after a busy week in the city, she spends weekends in her hometown Santa Rosa in Laguna. She's drawn by her sense of tradition, love of family and the laid-back life. Here, she shares the rustic charm of Santa Rosa and her thoughts on how the presence of an SM mall enhances the countryside. This is her Santa Rosa. This is her SM.

WHY CHIT IS

SM CITY Sta. Rosa has brought SM's shopping, leisure and entertainment excitement to the bustling Southern Luzon city. "Having an SM mall in Sta. Rosa makes things so convenient. When my daughter comes home from New York—kids in tow—I tell her not to worry if they need anything as she can always go to SM. When my son was buying things for his first baby, we assured him that whatever he would need, he could always get at SM. I guess SM is part not only of mine, but everyone's family life."

my city my SM

If You're Going to Sta. Rosa

Why I love Sta. Rosa

Why I love SM

Santa Rosa City has evolved from a rustic town in Laguna province to become the Investment Capital of South Luzon. With its techno parks, major waterside plants, upscale subdivisions, schools, and an SM mall—SM City Sta. Rosa—it has become a dynamic hub for growth and development. Amidst its progress, there is a side of Sta. Rosa that many of us rarely see—a side rich in history and culture seen in its old churches, ancestral homes, and artistically-inclined people. It is this old town charm plus her strong sense of family that draws Chit Lijauco back to her hometown's during weekends despite her busy schedule at her magazine and Rotary work. Here she gives us a rare glimpse of the other side of her Sta. Rosa, her SM.

Chit Lijauco
Managing Editor, Tatler Magazine and Rotary Governor for district 3820

Sta. Rosa, Laguna, is also–surprise!– a cultural-heritage mecca

By Constantino-C. Tejero

TO MOST MANILANS, IT appears urban development in the last few decades has been going southward.

This was signaled as early as the 1980s by the buzzword "Greenbelter" (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Bacoor)—and the establishment of the Laguna Technopark, the first integrated industrial community in the country. This giant complex is shared by the towns of Biñan and the city of Sta. Rosa, two-thirds of which belonging to the latter.

Some 48 km from Manila with a total land area of 5,415 hectares, Sta. Rosa is the gateway to Calabar son. With the Laguna Technopark and the building of the biggest Coca-Cola plant in the Far East here, the place experienced an economic upheaval whose shinings were felt as early as the '70s.

It also accounts for 95 percent of the country's automotive manufacturing output and exports, making it the Motor City of the Philippines. It has the most number of malls in the region, and the first and biggest theme park in the country, Enchanted Kingdom.

Sta. Rosa is now billed as the Investment Capital of Southern Luzon, and considered one of the most livable cities in the Philippines.

POTTERY from the Paco (Dorsey) display at the Sta. Rosa Museum

CASA Arcadiana is furnished with the trappings of the era.

After Alabang in Muntinlupa, it is becoming the residential address of choice southeast of Manila. (Its latest celebrity resident is Manny Pacquiao.)

Art Deco archway

The Tutuban development and economic dynamism, however, obscures the other face of the city. People too often overlook this perhaps more essential part—that behind this great urbanization is an old, still place with a long history and a rich cultural heritage.

Sta. Rosa, then a Biñan barrio called Bukid, used to be an enclave of the Dominicans. It had an irrigation system, three palatial rice harvests a year, and an area attracting monasteries, particularly

STA. ROSA Arch, the city's premier landmark

Intramuros' Isaac Belong, Castillo and its western border.

To watch out for these bandits, the Bantayong Bato was commissioned to be built in 1820 by governadorcillo Nicolás Bautista.

REAL Monument

This is what is now known as the Sta. Rosa Arch (though not in its original site by the bridge). Antonio Tiongco, president of the Sta. Rosa Studies Center, says people from neighboring towns come just to see this archway.

The structure had been renovated in 1935, then in 1957, and had taken on the Art Deco look of the latter period: four stone lions guarding the portal, Modern outlines of friars, relief of trumpeting angels.

The Coral Monument, planted in 1956 by Daniel Siu in the plaza, has scale sculptures depicting 18 2-meters from the ground—the tallest in the country, and part three inches above the Buan Bo Lion in China, says Tiongco.

Baroque altar

The Sta. Rosa Museum, established in 2008 with local historian

ITA ROSA O

Local foodie and coffee places are amazing success stories

By Margie Baga-Reyes

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, LIVING-way Adorable, a native of Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and a public school teacher for 28 years, still can't believe how her passion for cooking has brought her to places she could never have imagined she'd see.

At 63, Adorable runs a thriving food business, the luxury's first at SM Sta. Rosa in Laguna, SM City Lipa, Batangas, and (next month) at the Enterprise Building on Paseo de Roxas, Makati.

When Adorable, a mother of two, opted for early retirement, she pursued her dream of putting up a restaurant. She would cook on the side and cater to small parties of fellow teachers and friends.

In 2000, she opened Tasty's Grill at Plaza de Sta. Rosario Laguna. For three years, her kitchen and pork barbecues, adobo, sizzling and grilled native dishes created a steady clientele until a conflict arose in the property and Adorable was forced to close Tasty's down.

However, she still pursued the family-run business. Bai Bow, better known as Sta. Rosa—to Lipa, Batangas.

"We brought a property in San Jose, Batangas, hoped up using. Since we were already in Batangas we scouted for a place for the restaurant," recalls Adorable.

They found one behind a gasoline along the highway to Lipa in 2002 and it initially became a byword for beers.

It was also then that Henry Sy, son of SM tycoon Henry Sy, turn into Adorable.

"A group of people in running cars and ordered all the house

LINGAYEN! Adorable with daughter-in-law Bernadette

SLICE n' Dice's cocoa and baked sweets

specialties," she recalls.

One guy who turned out to be Sy, inquired about the menu. She then served them Ate-n-dare, arroz ala, bolets, seafood, lechon, sizzling squid and seafood veggies.

"You ought out all my best dishes and little did I know it was meant by himself who enjoyed very food," she says.

In 2004, Tasty's opened at the food court of SM Lipa. Because of the success of Tasty's, SM offered the family to open another store on the second level of SM Sta. Rosa food court in 2006.

"It was grateful to SM to since they me to join their group," notes Adorable, whose husband was a marketing agency. "SM has opened doors for me and allowed me to serve good food to many people."

Aside from Tasty's, Adorable has acquired food franchises at SM Sta. Rosa, such as Pancake House, Pancit Malabon Express and Slice and Dice, a new franchise that serves char-grilled steaks at affordable prices.

Her children and children-in-law help run the businesses, including a 7-11 franchise in Calamba, Laguna.

All Filipino coffee

For quite some time, husband-and-wife team Dennis and Mel Hernandez had been looking for a spot in a mall where they could put up their dream coffee shop. They roamed somewhere in Manila or Makati City, but strangely they ended up in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Though the location wasn't as promising as they thought it would be (if they were in Makati, Beanyard Coffee was more in a commercial mall in Sta. Rosa in 2003, introducing all-Filipino specialty coffee blends. Laguna townsfolk instantly perceived their espresso drinks, coffee concoctions and Frappé ice-cream shakes.

Three years after, however, they made a major decision to move Beanyard to a much bigger, more promising business location—at SM Sta. Rosa.

"Though we had a good start in another mall, I must say we were doing better here at SM Sta. Rosa. We've instantly become a destination. I couldn't ask for more," says Mel Hernandez, a hotel and restaurant Management graduate, while her husband Dennis (taste-inspired Pisces).

For seven years now, Beanyard has been all original menu concept, promoting Philippine coffee. Its Arabica comes from Benguet, its Robusta from Cavite. Beanyard sells traditional and pureness of the coffee more than anything else. It doesn't stock up to coffee beyond 10 days.

Beanyard is not taken for a longer brand coffee shop because of its modern interior and relaxing ambiance.

"We are not trying to pretend to be like Starbucks," says Hernandez. "We still keep the Filipino spirit and consider ourselves to get to other foreign-based stores. It'll be you, order in the counter and wait for your name to be called or order from where you are comfortable seated and are take down your request. We give more value on customers preference."

Beanyard offers does customer surveys, which helps in promoting its products to a varied clientele. Pinoys enjoy cappuccino and latte. Caucasians prefer macchiato and espresso. The Japanese and Koreans drink iced coffee without sugar. Most women delight in chocolate-based coffee with whipped cream.

Beanyard houses seven baristas (all based in Laguna), skillfully trained by Hernandez himself. Popular among its ten drinks are the macchiato, vanilla latte, cappuccino and espresso con panna. Cold drinks include Iced Americano, hazelnut espresso and iced cold mocha.

There are freshly prepared sandwiches with chips on the side. Popular ones are Reuben Clubhouse Sandwich (four-decker sandwich filled with corned beef, ham, cheese, egg, lettuce and cucumber) and Grilled Double Cheese and Beef Frankfurter.

BEANYARD'S Rod Hernandez

APPLE Pie (above) and Choco Truffle Ice-Cream Shake

"We just up a business that's part of the people's lifestyle not only in the Philippines but globally," says Hernandez. "Coffee drop is the cheapest place to relax. You can unwind, even if you're not a coffee drinker."

Since Beanyard has made a name for itself in Laguna, Benyard has also moved to Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to live permanently. They bought a property at Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay near Paseo de Sta. Rosa.

"We are happier here in Laguna than in Makati, which is kinda chaotic now. Having a business at SM Sta. Rosa helped us decide easily to locate. Sta. Rosa is an ideal place to invest, but to mention that it's safe and accessible to all basis wisely," declares Hernandez.

From 'sinukmani' to 'macbe'

ALMOST ALWAYS A VISIT TO Sta. Rosa in Laguna to savor cooperative and engaging gastronomic delights.

Yes, frequent travelers there know exactly what the city is known for in terms of what to enjoy, home to family and friends. They are *sinukmani*, *macbe*, *kilawing puso ng saging*, *al'al* and *Bukid ice cream*.

Benny Tiongco, director of the Sta. Rosa Studies Center, says these delicacies have been a culinary-cultural mix from the memorial, consistently creating a gustatory impact to food lovers and even first-timers.

Sinukmani (or bibe to other provinces) is oddly eaten with its viewing puso ng saging. Normally, ritual rice is prepared as an afternoon snack, while *kilawing puso ng saging* is served as a salad. It was only recently that Tiongco discovered, through historians, that

BOK! Kanglot ice cream

MACHE, rice flour balls

SINUKMANI and *kilawing puso ng saging*

ATSLE, corn chips bites

puso ng saging and pickles is savory right in a makeshift table in the Poblacion.

Alice Gomez of Mini Food House (tel. 0928-501 5035) also offers *sinukmani* and *kilawing puso ng saging* in crunchy bite-sized ice cream bowls dishes in single serving and served wrapped in banana leaf. Sta. Rosa's version is more tall filled with toasted sesame seeds and sweet syrup that oozes out after every bite. "Bok" called

SM City Sta. Rosa: Laguna's best-kept secret shopping destination

By Jake Ramirez
Lifestyle Reporter

SEEING SM CITY STA. ROSA FOR THE FIRST time, you can't help but notice its different architectural design. This one is not your usual box-type SM supermall, since the design team of Edge Interior Pte ltr. Consultants and Associates, design architect and architect on record, respectively, had made sure that SM City Sta. Rosa adapts to the outdoor life of Laguna.

The front has recessed panels, like giant "awnings" to shield mall-goers from direct sunlight, and faces leisure/dwelling, while the panels that hold the louver slats have bolts where vines can crawl and reach all the way to the roof of the mall.

Inside the mall, the in-trend curved looks (no bewildering and innovative) SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Our Home, SM Appliance Center and Ace Hardware, as well as retail outlets such as fashion boutiques, food stores, novelty shops, sports stores and jewelry shops.

And for me, a major mall nut, I have near-negotiable conditions. Top score, but are bookstores such as National Book Store and Book Sale, and I was lucky to see both stores inside SM City Sta. Rosa. The time, a National Book Store. I bought a hardbound copy of Laura Ingalls Wilder's rubbing, book for only P200, from its original price of P1,200, actually a steal. Cover of Paul Mathema just described Ms Monroe as the "flamboyant" of makeup artists, and now my growing collection of imitation makeup masters that ranges from the late Nanay Aurora to Rich Mitzuru, is almost complete.

For my growing DVD collection, I always make a pit stop at Odyssey and Astronomo. Now is the perfect time to shop for original DVDs, with ongoing promos such as three DVDs for only P199, buy one, take one and P1,500 for every purchase of a regular-priced DVD, really irresistible scheme to load up for a collector like me.

I was lucky to get a copy of Jennifer Aniston's underrated film, "Friends With Money," where she was cast together with acting heavyweights such as Joan Cusack, Frances McDormand and Catherine Keener.

As for Dear for P199 pesos, I bought a copy of "Some Like It Bare," the Oscar-nominated film adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "Proof," with Gwyneth Paltrow and "The Gangsta," stunning Laura Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman.

On sale

All the Old Department Store nonsellers are on sale, such as stackable plastic bins that sell at 50 percent off, and a bicycle I bought for my nephew for only P900.75, down from its original price of P1,499.75, a perfect gift for his recent kindergarten graduation—and to more dramatic scenes, like whenever he was refused for borrowing other kids' bikes in the park.

My food place, the mall has the SM Food Court, as well as well-known international and local food brand stores, plus specialty restaurants.

SM City Sta. Rosa also has four state-of-the-art cinemas, an entertainment plaza that included inside a total area of 66,000 sq m, plus 3,301 parking slots around the mall for customer convenience.

Another distinct feature of SM's 23rd mall is a butterfly-sanctuary located at the heart of the mall, where one can attract with live colorful winged creatures by a donation of P20 for their upkeep.

The mall is located on a 170,740-sq-m property in Barrio Tagapo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Sta. Rosa is a strategic gateway to Metro Manila, as well as other provinces in the Calabarzon region. The city currently houses three globally competitive industrial estates. These include the Laguna Technopark, which is the first industrial estate in the Philippines; the Santa Rosa Business Park, an integrated commercial, business and industrial park; and the Meridian Industrial Complex, with its assembly plants and warehouses.

Motor country

Known as the Little Detroit of the Philippines, Santa Rosa houses six automotive companies, Toyota, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor and Columbian Motors, which accounts for 90 percent of local automotive production.

The city is also densely populated, with over 130 residential subdivisions, ranging from the high-end Laguna Bel Air, Santa Rosa Estates, Terra Fortuna, La Residencia, Fontenvenue, Bella Nova to the medium range. Its city government also subsidized housing units.

Santa Rosa also has a wide range of schools and universities of all levels, with the city and surrounding areas, housing Biela and the Perpetual Help University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Santa Rosa Extension, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Lyceum Bel-Air Philippines Science, Dominican College, Far Eastern University-Laguna, San Pedro College of Business and the Arts, and St. Scholastica's College, Westgrove.

The University of Santo Tomas has acquired a 48-ha property in Santa Rosa, where it plans to build a church and Dominican priory and, later, a campus.

Santa Rosa's surrounding towns and city—San Pedro, Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba City and Carmona, Cavite—are also rapidly developing with 21 operating industrial estates, and over 500 residential subdivisions and villages.

Finally, SM City Sta. Rosa, as SM Group's first foray into the growing Laguna economy, is remarkable and worthwhile.

From 'sinukmani' to 'mache'

From page F1

pastillas and other long past gained as well.

"The original family who used to make mache already passed away. Only few Laguna townsfolk made mache because it's very tedious and time consuming to make," says Tongco.

But, Mayra Batilo Ltd. (0915-357-3231) has always been known to make mache.

Sta. Rosa's best-kept secret remains that's ice cream. Filemon Bolton, founder of the frozen delight more than 30 years ago, has already passed away but his legacy lives on with his wife and children. Bolton would peddle his ice cream in the streets and schools until it became an integral part of the Sta. Rosa landscape.

Bolton's ice creams are made fresh every day. A machine behind the counter constantly churns out ice cream. Bolton's ice cream offers various flavors, including ube macapuno, queso mango and langka.

If you want to discover more Sta. Rosa delights, a food trip can be arranged through the Sta. Rosa Market Center (Call Tongco at 0911-338 1336.)

Reagan Rogas Reyes

LOUVERED panels and a trellis outside SM City Sta. Rosa

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SANTA ROSA a foodie's haven of Southern Tagalog specialties. "Santa Rosa has many culinary delights. That is why I became ardently involved in the promotion of food. In the Beauty, we learned what we call Bandea, which means partnership in our town and in some of Southern Luzon provinces. Bandea was a trade fair meant to promote Laguna's products, including culinary specialties, and we wish us a more lucrative."

Why Chit Lijauco . . .

From page E1

CHIT LIJAUCO, a social kitchen Laguna Lake with coconut milk and yellow ginger. Top Row, fresh river shrimp with tomatoes and coconut milk; Kilawin na Pusit ng Sapsap and Tambakol; Kinilaw, a cane-based delicacy; and Maiba, made more with syrup. Santa Rosa's own version of sweets

CHIT enjoys get-talk with her friends from the Beauty — Mary Ann Gonzales, Carol Collantes and Percy de la Cruz — at one of their favorite places in SM City Sta. Rosa — the lounge area Beaujeant Coffee shop. "When I'm in Sta. Rosa, people greet you and say hello, and before bed myself chatting with neighbors, some of who would even proudly drop by with food. That is one of the simple pleasures you do not get in the city."

Hues of Summer

Get high with these stilettos and stacked heels in summer's hottest hues available at the Ladies' Shoes Section.

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SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Sta. Rosa . . .

From page E2

Rolando Laurino as consultant, was the town's original mercenary. Bongco says they had to peel off six inches of concrete to reveal the bricks and wood beams of the original walls.

It houses ancient artifacts, antique furniture, old photographs, prints and documents tracing the history of the place. More importantly, it has a collection attesting to its prehistory: shards of kiln ceramics, colored-glass beads, potteries dug up in shallow burial grounds of early-rice settlers to the barangay of Caingin. The potteries originated in South China, some dated as early as the 12th century, during the Yuan Dynasty.

The Church of Sta. Rosa de Lima, built in 1766, has a hexagonal belfry, richly carved hardwood doors, statues of saints in niches on the façade, stone windows on the sides. The famous altar is well preserved, the ceiling, originally painted with religious images by Mariano Prelan Sr. The parish priest is reportedly "modernizing" the church.

Casitas de Sta. Domingo, constructed in 1877 and covering eight hectares, has been declared a "historical landmark" by the National Historical Institute. Nine white casa, it was the outpost of the Guardia Civil in the area, a major detachment of the Spanish forces.

Art Nouveau staircase

There are over 30 Hispanic-ancestral houses in Sta. Rosa, with eight relatively well-preserved structures found in the old poblacion.

Casa Zaculla's interior is rather cramped, with very low ceiling, as it was originally built as a row house in 1888. A notable feature is the hardwood spiral staircase, with ever, its bolder-like building, its ornate and balustrade lavishly carved with Art Nouveau motif.

It houses architect Mario Zaculla's collection of artifacts and antiques, old photographs on walls and commodes, a family tree painted on one wall, an icon of San Jose with pulli.

Casa Perlas is a grey-illustration, monkey-script except for its wide verandah and a collection of life-size cactus. Prominently displayed in the sala/bend embellished is the icon of Señor San Jose leading the Santo Niño.

Casa Alcantara, built in mid-19th century, is painted off-white and yellowish. The rooms have been fully furnished with the exis buyangan.

There is a banggunisan and also amnesia, but Sta. Rosa Historical Society president Rolando de Guzman says there are input added in recent years. And here we see the meeting of the old and the new, as if objectifying the city itself.

Yes, it is the new Sta. Rosa, with the shining infrastructure, but still recognizable from its heritage structures. If bac lady come on its own, from being a barrio of Calauyan, then of Biñan, until its independence as municipality in 1792, to what it is now — the Live City of Southern Luzon.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

IN THIS ISSUE
■ 'There's no such thing as life-work balance' /C2

The last days of Jesus around the Philippines

I don't know how many dead Christs we followed from the 1980s to the '90s, when my knees began to give way

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando
Contributor

MOST KIDS BEGIN LIFE exposed to foreign races and media and speaking (Arnesco) English, and I was the volunteer police of my family to keep them Filipino. One way was to take our children to the Holy Week rites of different towns. I don't know how many dead Christs we followed from the 1980s to the '90s, when my knees began to give way.

The most publicized rites are the crucifixions in Pampanga and in Barrio Cutud, Medellin, Bulacan. It is not, however, the best place to start a Filipinism course. It is no fun in the field to tell the penitents' backs to "Relax your shoulders" or "Don't grimace so much." Or to tell the executioner who does yearly volunteered consolations to that his American father would recognize him. And our sorts curious about Lucia, the only female "Christ." Like the 11 others, her hands and feet were bound with ropes to the cross and the cross to a pedestal. She wore an almost wig and her toenails were manicured, but the long steel nails did pierce a few centimeters into her foot which bled. She was para lolh act and I loved her.

A gentler introduction in summer is a drive to the town square of Bulacan, Bulacan. At least 30 silver floats owned by the principalia (mainly the Santa family) are parked there before they join the 6 p.m. Good Friday procession. Some of the floats were: four Beybs with the cock, Christ on a donkey, The Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Kiss of Judas, The Scourging at the Pillar, The Crowning of Thorns, Christ before Pilate, Christ's First Fall, The Crucifixion, The Pieta, Santo Entierro. All of them encrusted with lights and jewelry. Just looking at the statues' sorrowful faces made one empathize. Suffering and jewelry have always been a Filipino thing.

Some rituals go on till now, like the coronado. In hill folk pageantry, it solidifies the life of Christ. Most local, Laguna and Pampanga towns have the much-awaited community event, staged live. I think all Filipino children must see at least one coronado in their town, not in the CCP but in situ.

I believe explain to my children that coronados outrageous and prige are naive and gaudy, as folk art always seems to city slickers. The painter of the color or backdrop has no idea of perspective. There are hundreds wear to Golfiat, the Virgin lives in a bungalow, the army we and mosquito net are for Pilate's tents and unimpossible bonbon are fury in the Last Supper (details supplied by Nic Tiongson). But they are disarming precisely because of their naivete and anachronisms.

I remember going to a coronado held on the beach to one Sitang village. We sat on banana overturned on the sand. But the kids liked the coronado of Cadena, Misal, better, because they recognized the handsome, cool-black Simon of Cyrene. A soldier by calling, he had visited our house several times to subdue our guys. He was a descendant of the black Indian Sepoys recruited by the British for their failed invasions of the Philippines. Some of them had settled in Cavite.

The reading of the Pasion was also an all-week affair. Under the houses, the old mat-sugs churned it by hours from a dog-eared book. During our last forays, the messengers were no more. Younger women had taken over and sang the Pasion in melodies like Dandansoy, hopefully to keep the

The last days of Jesus around the Philippines

Pasunggab F2

because people.

The day before Palm Sunday drove a already a frenzied wearing of palms or *palaspas* around Quiapo and other Catholic churches. On the day itself, the parishioners wave the palms all together in the church, creating a breathtaking sea of swaying green.

After use, the palaspas are tucked under the window sills outside the houses where they curl up and die. Blessed palm fronds are believed to ward off lightning, plague, drowning and other ills.

In my dog palaspas were much larger, longer and better adorned. They had woven hearts on the handles and flowers, birds and crickets swinging at the ends. Well, maybe things move so much as they are, only memory keeps them there.

We had seen a lovely photograph of a Pascha Lamb made of mashed potatoes and raisins sitting regally on a silver tray. It is cooked on Holy Thursday and brought to the church to be blessed. Cora Alviola and I investigated and we did locate one such lamb in Morong, Rizal. The very benevolent thought was done poorly and the Gardens ng Ilog looked more like a melting pastel piano. After the blessing, it was consumed by the priest and his visitors.

'Hala-hala'

One of the nice things about these pilgrimages is stopping for *hala-hala* under the trees or on tables in front of doorways. Contrary to *hala-hala* is impossible. Everything is freshly cooked, no commercially hawked stuff. Common *hala-hala* contains any of the following—saging na saba, dahyang ube, ice mongo, banana cubes, langka in syrup, kaong or sago, occasionally fresh fruits like mangos and melon finished with a dash of canned milk and reasonably refreshing.

Duty Dee Bautista brought us to a "special special" *hala-hala* joint in a green bungalow in Gongoc, Dampalit, Malolos. From the usual ingredients, it had rolled purefina de leche made of unwhite milk. It was heavenly, but we could feel the cholesterol building up in our arteries.

The Bautistas (from Holy Thursday to Saturday) is best experienced in La Loma towns, especially Pulilit and Paete. The practitioners are everywhere on the road, bearing their backs with sharp steel or glass-tipped whips until they are all red with blood. Even in the fields, penitents walk on the narrow embankments and carabao and/or are inevitably quartered with drops of blood. Penitents smear the field of a rich harvest.

All of them end up in church. Some request additional cuts with razor blades on their backs, others just pressing themselves on the hot ground with arms outstretched, afterward, I was told, they dove straight into the river or the sea.

Child penitents

We saw the child penitents, 9 to 12 years old, in Santo Kalayaan, near there. We had to be there at dawn at the foot of a hill. We could barely see anything but could hear the swishing of dry leaves which turned out to be the coconut fronds the children were dressed in. Soon, on the slope of the hill rolled, leaf-covered child penitents looking like pullmoops.

The child penitents were dressed in *daro* and assumed female (much like Isa in detail). They were bare-chested. On their heads were woven palm hats with pointed tops decorated with paper flowers. Tradition has it that men dressed as women to be humiliated and prevent sin. They lashed themselves with whips as well. Some men didn't even bother to don bad costumes and simply wore their wives' dresses.

Holy Week was also circumcision time. Whoever was shifted at it usually (the barber) did the operation in some secluded house. Preparations must be made days away there one by one, coming out wearing their sister's shirt since it was an agony to wear pants. And the boys were very careful not to be spied upon (*masilipan*), as it would cause the wound to swell like a ripe tomato underground.

On another banana farm, we were assured to see as many dead Christs as we could. The farm farmers in one house in Tayabas had its clan bound with a cloth exactly like a human who had just died, and whose pants had to be changed first. Like a beloved family member, it was carried to a canopied bed surrounded by candles and praying women where it was laved with incense wine and perfumes.

In the Paete church, the dead Christ was placed in a coffin with mourners kneeling at the bed. Devotees were allowed to place their authentic legs under the catafalque to partake of the healing smoke.

In a hilltop village in Dupaning Bulacan, we entered a cemetery (cemeteries) where a dead Christ lay in state. Its wounds were dressed in cotton and it was surrounded by many fainting books and cushions. This was supposed to ensure good fishing. We heard of many other things put under the dead Christ, including sex, the sharp blades attached to a rooster's legs before a cockfight. The cemeteries are usually on the installed Christ as it leaves the church in Tayabas. It is not uncommon for some males to fake-roll a tiny bit of the crosses serve as their all-purpose entrapment.

After the Seven Last Words in a Dampalit town on Good Friday was church (in the '90s) still held the sensitive. The Lord was dead. All the doors of the church were closed and the lights dimmed. Mourners lighted candles and chandeliers hanged hanging on doors and rustling of bamboo noisemakers began. When it was over, an exclusive, unsupposed society of victims began to play. It marked the end of the ceremonies. Immediately the lamentations that decorated the big room by the altar out and didn't stop until it was born. The lights blinked on. Good Friday was indeed doubly sentimental.

In Cantao, Cebu, the Last Supper was mounted somewhat with 12 Apostles and Jesus Christ. They sat on a long table on a platform. Everyone took their roles very seriously, putting on their costumes and rags and emblems in the schoolhouse next door. Each contestant family, carrying a cooked fish or any food dish, walked forward along the aisle and laid their offering on the table. We watched, salivating in hunger, for we had not forsworn that every single restaurant, grocery and saw-as-it-were would be closed that day. Our only source of nourishment was a lone ice cream cart.

Luckily, Dee Bautista remembered that his friend lived in the area, and so he brought us to Manny Carrot's house. It was like a real snake with bright lights and people of all walks of life streaming in and out of the door.

We were all straight to the dining room. There was a feast on the table and endless cooking in the kitchen. We soon learned that Dr. Santo Entierro was always assigned to the most prominent/richest family of the town. It had a share of the family inheritance, the proceeds of, let's say, 1/3 of the orchard or orchard going to replace the luxurious habitimania, the dozer and flowers of its Rolls Royce carriage, the expenses of the "wake" and the big festive Good Friday.

Mortieres

In Boac, in Marinduque's remarkable Holy Week ritual, if it Longinus, the centurion whose lance pierced Jesus' side, who is the main character. A drop of Christ's blood is supposed to have gotten into his eye and Longinus was able to fight all over until he professed that Christ is indeed God. The rest of the ceremonies go after him. Since the play is outdoors, we watched them from Longinus all over Talbuk Emb and Boac. They finally catch him and behead him. His bobby thirteen canals, which is really a head.

The Morion mask is a classic. It covers the whole head and face and/or from the soft wood. It has staring eyes, a sharp nose, a dark beard and a stupid expression—a subtle dig at the Spaniards. Used to show you how old the ritual is. I have the seven self-flagellants afterward, three feet a high price with Manila collectors. It doesn't know how much of the ritual has remained since the '900.

In the evening of Good Friday, the Judas figure, whose stomach is filled with firecrackers, is exploded when he touches ground.

Several Easter Sundays we went to the Angono, Rizal, salubong which is one of the best. It was then always held in a big basketball court. A scaffold was constructed above it with an elaborate system of strings and wires. On each of the four corners was a bird made of crepe paper and in simulare feathers. In the middle was a large upside-down paper blossom.

When the two processions meet—one bearing the Mater Dolorosa and the other the Risen Christ—the four birds on the scaffold are released. They dash down the strings leading to the center where the birds peck at the flower. The blossom opens to reveal a little angel who is lowered to remove the veil that covers the Virgin's eyes in order to behold her resurrection.

Throughout Holy Week, Cebu witnessed a breathtaking Easter salubong. Fifteen little angels were hanging on very high perches behind a large paper heart. As the first rays of the sun peeped through the horizon, all the angels were lowered. The paper heart opened, revealing the special angel who then removed the Virgin's veil. It was an exquisite scene to see pictures until I spent. The angel had been rehearsed up on high as early as 4 a.m. and concealed it help wearing her underpants).

In Bohol, we watched a small procession on foot. It hasn't before the risen Christ was carried on a wooden platform on the shoulders of two men. We saw the Basilayan church teeming with all sizes of angels going in out of the door.

We watched the "meeting women" of the Catholic Women in opening the Dolorosa) veil and the Virgin's hand on viewing the bloodied face of Jesus. In a laboriously room, searching for the Santo Entierro procession, we were told to "follow the scent of lumbang." Sure enough, we spotted the dead Christ covering fragrantly on the shoulders of the busy bearers.

I haven't gone to a single Holy Week rite since the '90s. I am told that the landscape has developed, become unrecognizable. That there are so many houses and resorts on the beaches now that Pasacao couldn't recognize anything. I like to think Holy Week's details remain the same. Which is important for my grandchildren's children, to remind them, as they tap in and out for vacations in other lands, that they are Filipinos.

Interactive Way of the Cross at Bonifacio High Street

"Walking Reflections of the Stations of the Cross" opens today, Palm Sunday, at High Street in Fort Bonifacio, and runs until Easter Sunday, April 4.

The modern, artistic and interactive exhibit challenges the way we see the events surrounding the death of Jesus, giving everyone an opportunity to ponder on the events that took place some 2,000 years ago, and thoughtfully recalls how God demonstrated His love for humanity.

With touches of installations and multimedia, the half-a-mile-long, landscaped path, the exhibit invites residents, shoppers, families, forbidden, school groups, to-lipinas groups, art and photography enthusiasts, and visitors of Fort Bonifacio Global City to follow the footsteps of Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Bethesda where

He was condemned to death, to the arrest of the Lord scourging and up the wounding Ma Dolorosa to the cross at Calvary.

Now on its second year at High Street, the 14 Stations promises to be yet another unforgettable experience for the person who takes the time to take the 45-minute reverse-complete journey. "Walking" promises to touch, reflect and captivate the heart, and bring about a deeper understanding of who God is and what He did for mankind through Jesus Christ.

Last year, more than 111,000 people, including priests, nuns, students, senior citizens, families, members of the military, prominent businessmen leaders and members of the entertainment industry visited Walkway.

The event culminates with a big Easter Sunday concert celebration at 7 p.m. and the launch of "Are You Living?" a contemporary album of thought-provoking music by various recording artists such as Barbie Almalbis, Jay Durias, Johnoy, Arthur Davis, Marvin Davis A., Salazars, Wagas, and Jay Starks.

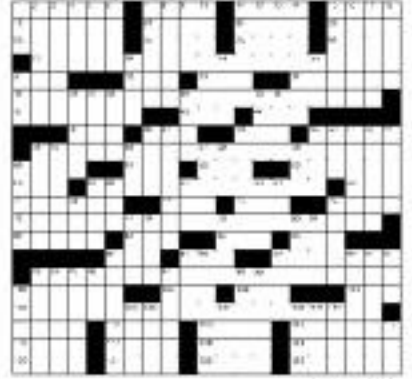
The Stations of the Cross exhibit is the collaborative effort of Church Simplified and Orwell Production Village!, in partnership with Bel Bonifacio Development Corporation. It has the support of Stainless Pasta, Cinnamon, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Dr. Richards Hits, Interbusiness, Living Spring Books, Leaves Ark, Mellowald's, Optima, Ruby Gonzales Meyer, Sound Check, South Sales, Stage Bigger, Tab-pair Print and South City Church.

For more information, visit www.bgc.churchsimplified.com. Or call/text Rochel.

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

CLASSIC NEW CUTS



answer on page F2

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ONE OF THE BEST places to celebrate Lent is in the Ilocos region. Friday processions after Ash Wednesday are looked forward to by the people and culminate in religious activities from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.

Into Bantay in Candaba, Ilocos Sur, Lenten practices embrace the unique, rendering classic, many the staging of the "Pasyon" to the processions of religious images in every town and Via Crucis around the church courtyards.

The Good Friday procession in Vigan features lenticular scenes which are paraded through the cobblestone streets, amid thousands of candles. Bore petals are thrown as the passing carroza of the sorrowing Virgin and Savior of the Santo Entierro.

Find accommodations, discounts, or call 927-5555.

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Israeli ambassador, jazz artists grace Cebu Consular Corps' events

CEBU CEBU

Janine Piccarrell

THE MARCO POLO PLAZA Hotel hosted recently the last dinner meeting of the Cebu Consular Corps at the hotel's Mezzanine Room. Corps officers and spouses were invited to meet and speak at was Avi Hapri, Ambassador of Israel to the Philippines.

Marco Polo general manager Hans Haun welcomed the ambassador to the hyper together with other hotel executives Ms Dorie Mara Alfonso, sales director Lara Constantino, PR officer for media affairs Quijano and Teresa Cuejano.

Ambassador Hapri was accompanied by Emily Benedicto Chiongbian, Honorary Consul of Israel in Cebu. While all lingered at the lobby for small talk and photos, Arts Council president Dottie Garcia invited with three top jazz artists from Israel who performed that evening at the City Opera Club Cebu. Here to meet you, Ish Cohen, Yaniv Hilevitch and Paulo Mendes.

The ambassador then greeted Cebu's Consular Corps, some of **them he had already known from** two previous visits to Cebu. "I like to come here," he said. "It is such a beautiful place and a friendly."

Consul General Ho Shuping of China and Consul/Commander Toshiko Okajima of Japan were present, as were the following honorary consuls in Cebu:

Russia's Anni Garcia, the corporate chairperson; UK's Maya Lukanov; Canada's Robert Lee; Romania's Samuel Ebersole; Australia's Arnulfo Magbalot; Belgium's Grand Benedicto; Sweden's Jose Sala; Romania's Grand Benedicto; Canada Republic's Philip Go; and the United States' John Domingo.

The Israeli**ans** turns was exquisite. There was a substantial Mediterranean salad, and a choice of either salmon encrusted with lemon vanilla or beef medallions which were most tender and those who ordered them.

Dessert was banana chocolate bread pudding, which was served at about the time the meeting was called to order. The usual business was dispensed as everyone was eager to listen to the Powerpoint presentation on Israel introduced by Ambassador Hapri.

It was most informative, and just as interesting was the exchange of ideas that followed. The ambassador reminded all about the reception that would promote the evening's performance of the Israeli jazz artists.

Sinfonietta performance

Honorary Consul of Canada Robert Lee took the opportunity of asking everyone to mark July 1 on their calendars. The Sinfonietta of Toronto will come to Cebu to perform at the Marco Polo's ballroom. Consul Lee said it will be a fund-raiser for the Arts Council on its 50th anniversary.

The evening's reception was a big success, thanks to City Sports Club's Mr. Mic Solon, who was commissioned by the ambassador for the all-kosher food on the buffet. As a given point, people filed into the adjoining concert hall for the performance. It was HALO by the time it started at 9 p.m. Late comers were not allowed in.

MARCO Polo Plaza general manager Hans Haun, honorary consul of Israel Emily Benedicto Chiongbian, Israeli Ambassador Zvi Hapri, honorary consul of Spain and Arts Council president Portia Garcia, and honorary consul of Portugal Samuel Ebersole

Vikki Sicmonovitza did the honors, asking everyone to turn off their mobile phones, refrain from taking photos, and stand up for the national anthems of the Philippines and Israel. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Hapri said the best way to connect between peoples is through culture. "We still have more events this year."

Hint outrage to sing and play the piano was Paula Valente, whose first rendition was in Hebrew. Then came "Stars" and her own "Rockies are falling," composed in New York City's Central Park on snow fell. She had more songs, including "Send" in English.

On the other hand, Yaniv Hilman sang Gershwin's "Summertime," and was accompanied by Ish Cohen. They did some songs together, bringing the house down with their rendition of "Rain".

The evening "wound" with song after song received with warm applause. The three artists were onstage for the finale, the Beatles' "Let It Be." The audience sang along with them as the topsy turvy "Rockies are falling" was played in New York City's Central Park on snow fell. She had more songs, including "Send" in English.

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The evening "wound" with song after song received with warm applause. The three artists were onstage for the finale, the Beatles' "Let It Be." The audience sang along with them as the topsy turvy their harp. The same happened during the encore, a reprise of "Summertime."

After the performance, the artists were besieged with requests for autographs and photo opportunities. They were in high spirits as they filed into the formal dining room with Ambassador Hapri.

It was hosted by the Arts Council, represented by president Dottie Garcia, VM Maxwell Espina and Marina Yraneneta, and Fr. Sola Villarica, who founded it 32 years ago, and primarily went up the steps to personally greet the artists. She was assisted by Marjanette Llanillow and Ito Rasat.

Ambassador Hapri is expected in Cebu once more on April 29 for the celebration of Israel's National Day with a reception at the ballroom of the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel.

Highlight of the event is a two-piano recital by two young artists from Israel: Yaron Goldberg, born in Jerusalem, and Bohara Haroni, born in Nazareth. They have excellent credentials.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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'Party Pilipinas!'

GMA TV'S NEW SUNDAY NOONTIME variety show, "Party Pilipinas!" premieres today in the former time slot of "SOP." Among the headliners are Ogie Alcasid, Regine Velasquez and Joyce, plus Jennifer Viray (right, in pre-show rehearsal), and Jeni Miclat (see page 1[illegible]).

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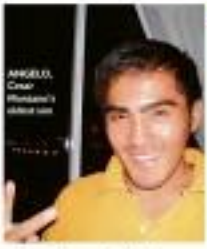


Buboy, Shine grieve son's death in private

I AM STILL IN A STATE OF SHOCK AFTER hearing that Angelo, the 23-year-old son of my BFF Cesar Montano, is gone.

Buboy was in high spirits last Wednesday when we had lunch. He was the picture of a doting father to his daughter Bailah. She is truly an island girl to all his kids.

As I write, I've tried to get in touch with Buboy, Isabelita and their immediate family. But I understand why they are unavailable for comment at the moment. I respect their need to grieve together.

When Buboy is ready, he will pour his heart out about the sad news.

Lhar Santiago interviewed me for "Get Real" about my sentiments on Angelo's sudden death. It made me think of my own kids who are about Angelo's age.

Nothing could be more painful for a parent than losing a child. It doesn't seem fair when our kids go ahead of us. We work so hard to give our kids the best in life. An ICU dinner somewhere where we endow our children. It just ain't right.

When we lose our spouse, we are called widow/widower. But what do we call a parent whose child has died? He needs a word to describe the pain.

My heart goes out to Buboy. He has been so busy as a gubernatorial candidate in Bohol. And now this.

It may derail Buboy's schedule but Angelo will surely give his dad more beautiful strength to carry on. The last time I saw Angelo, he was with his half-brother Diego Hidalgo's son with Yvonne Lejarraga in Brisbane. Buboy is equally proud of all his children. He put up Brillantes for his daughter Angela to manage.

Soon Angela and Secretina are busy helping Buboy in his Bohol campaign, in case Angelo who was taking care of the team and also of Buboy's three daughters with Elaine.

Bonding with Angelo

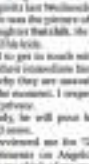
I remember Shine's story about her bonding with Angelo. "We were shopping in Rockwell and I bought an expensive pair of Melissa shoes on impulse," said Shine. "I told Angelo not to tell his dad but he told me pala (just thought)."

Angelo was a fun-loving, mild-mannered guy. He was the quiet type but once he warmed up to you, you'd see his joking side. He never threw his weight around just because he's the son of superstar.

Buboy's fave song to sing with Angelo and Diego is "Father and Son." The lyrics of Cat Stevens's classic hit love sums up what the adoring sons in Buboy feels right now. The following are excerpts from the song:

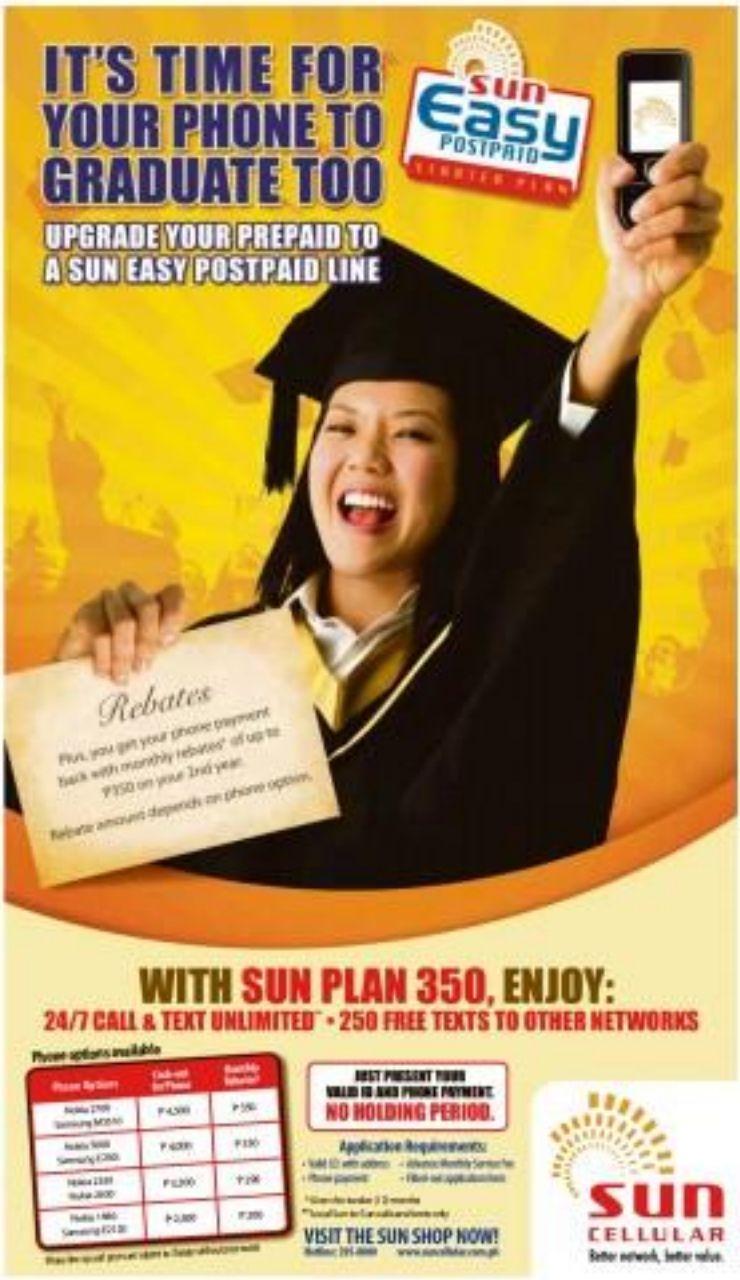
"It's not time to make a change/Just relax, take it easy/You're still young, that's your fault/There's so much you

BOOK 10



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal



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Norwegian duet at NBC March 31

THE NORWEGIAN INDIE FOLK/POP DUO Kings of Convenience performs on March 31 at the NBC Tent on Bonifacio Global City with Swedish musician Jose Gonzalez as front act.

Kings of Convenience members Erlend Oye and Eirik Glambek Bøe are known for their delicate tunes, calming voices, and intricate and subtle guitar melodies. They both write and sing their own songs.

The musicians were signed to the American label Kindercore after appearing in Norwegian festivals in 1999. After living in London in 2001, they released their debut album "Quiet is the New Loud," produced by Ken Nelson of Coldplay fame. A second album, "Riot on an Empty Street," came out in 2004. The group's latest CD, "Declaration of Independence," was released last year.

KINGS of Convenience

SHOW TIME

Easter at Star City

"Eggciting Easter Sunday" will be held on April 4 at Star City CCP Complex, Pasay. Kids can enjoy making colorful Easter eggs and have

joining at the carousel area. The traditional Easter egg hunt happens at Little Tykes. A magic show will be presented at the activity center. Call 833-1681 or 832-3249.

'For Victor or For Worse'

Comedian Joe Antonio brings his long-running hit show "For Victor or For Worse" to Cinemas 2, Power Plant Mall, Makati on April 7, 14, 21 and 28. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. Call 898-1440/41.

Fundraiser

The Philippine Homewood Center International Ensemble and Tonight Hill International School Bluebirds Ensemble perform in a fundraiser show, "Little Hands at Play Encore!" on April 11 at the Meralco Theater, Ortigas Ave., Pasig.

Tonight

Tom Jones, 8 p.m. Araneta Coliseum.

May 1

Billy Crudup, 8 p.m. Araneta Coliseum. Call 911-5555.

May 2

Yeah Yeah Yeahs, 8 p.m. Araneta Coliseum.

May 16

John Mayer, 8 p.m. SM Mall of Asia open grounds. Call 911-5555.

ROMMEL Montano, Angelo, Dolly and Rayan Aghajani

Buboy, Shine . . .

From page G1

have to know . . .

"Find a girl, settle down, if you want you can country. Look at me, I am old but I'm happy . . ."

My deepest condolences, amigo. No doubt Angelo's pride in being your son is something he will take with him to the Great Beyond.

* * *

I remember first watching Arnie Hernandez in Arnika Lilos when she was still part of MYNH. I felt instantly in love with her original song, "A Little Bit." Rank-three, love-crystal-clear voice already made her stand out on the bandwagon.

Now she is ready to shine on her own as a solo artist with her self-titled album under Star Records. "I'm so excited about it," she says. "I'm proud because it contains all original tracks with compositions of Ryan Cayabyab, Gary E. Alex Erguerra, Diancarl Reinoso, among others. Mga mga sarsi, tipong rumorey and alternative."

Tracks include "I Don't Want To Fall (anew single)," "Kanjam Ka" (her cheesy song of "I Love You, Goodbye"), my fave cut "Who Was I," and more. Astig ito!

* * *

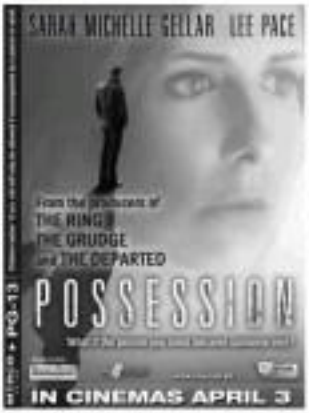
Join Gretchen Fullido as she gives you a 15-minute rundown of what's new in the local and international sports and entertainment fronts in "The Wrap" everyday at 7:45 p.m. on Studio 23.

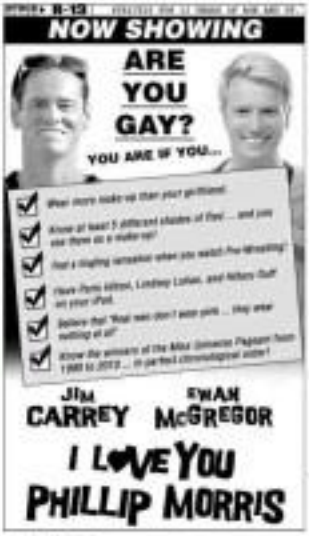
Don't miss six marathons in time for Holy Week. Set aviators "Ghost Whisperer on Good Friday (April 2) and 13 episodes of "Numbers & Ghosts" on Black Saturday (April 3), both at 10 a.m.

Welcome the sizzling summer with new seasons of "90210" (premieres April 6) and "CSI" (on May-Sep 4 HD).

The Bibliophile's farewell is to truly TVholics' best bud.

E-mail watermyplants@inq7.net or celso.c.com





Two Marks in 'Party'

BALLADEER MARK BAUTISTA AND dancer Mark Herras join the new Sunday musical variety show, "Party Pilipinas" beginning today on GMA 7. Sanrisa, a grand finalist in the singing competition "Star for a Night" and a former ASAP-CBN talent, recently signed a three-year exclusive contract with CBN Network Station, the first Mak-Gin mate Survivor in GMA 7's reality based artists search "Starstruck," has been demonstrating his latent dance moves in musical and variety programs.

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THE HEAT IS ON WITH THE SEARCH FOR THE BROADBAND GENERATION'S NEXT BIG ICON! DEADLINE OF ENTRIES IS ON APRIL 15!

More and more students all over the country are joining the Search for the Watchpad Crew! Audition now and get the chance to win P100,000, a brand new Sony Vaio laptop, 1 year FREE PLDT myDSL subscription, and a chance to be part of myDSL Watchpad's campaign and events!

Open to 16-20 year old net-savvy male and female students, more and more people nationwide are giving it their best shot for a chance to represent the coolest crew in town – the PLDT myDSL Watchpad Crew! If you're passionate about making a difference, join the ranks of Rhian Ramos, Isabel Oli and drift champ Alex Perez, and be famous for the right reasons!

Auditions were packed at Assumption, DLSU, UP, SOFA (School of Fashion and the Arts), Dolce Superclub, Cebu's Club Vudu, Bigfoot IAFT and more of the Search's hippest stops!

While being briefed before their auditions, the applicants get a feel of the fully loaded PLDT myDSL Speedster bus.

Students from different schools and areas tell the world why they should be Watchpad's next big thing!

Applicants answered the question, "Why should we pick you to be part of the Watchpad crew?" To audition online, you simply have to make a 2-3 minute video of yourself answering the same question, then log on to www.pldtwatchpad.com to fill out the application form and finally upload your photo and video!

Vilma Santos, Sharmaine 'I' Ulanday survivor Sarah Lahbati and the rest of the Watchpad crew dropped by the nation's hottest radio stations Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3 and Magic 89.9 to promote the search!

It was a night of fun and music at the Watchpad crew auditions at Remedios Circle, Malate, as people also got to check out the all new Speedster bus!

You can also attend these special go-sees on March 27, Saturday!

- Speed Circuit Event, Parking Lot of Greenhills Shopping Center (near Ortigas), 4-6 PM
- PLDT Live & Loud Battle of the Bands Event, Robinsons Lipa Open Parking Lot, 5-9 PM
- Galactic Riot Studio and Cafe, 9000 Penn Building Kamagong cor Brighton St., Makati City, 6-10 PM
- Cebu Superclub, Tomas Morato Ext., Quezon City, 10 PM onwards

watchpad crew

Catch the next round on April 10, Saturday at PLDT's Live and Loud event at the NEPO Quadrangle, Angeles City, Pampanga. Join onwards!

Special thanks to our partners Mossimo, Rusk, SOFA (School of Fashion and the Arts) and Sony.

Do you have what it takes to be a part of the Watchpad crew?
Log on to **www.pldtwatchpad.com** for more details on how to join! Your mission to stardom starts now!

ENTERTAINMENT

RESIDENT judge Vice Ganda

'Showtime' suspended again

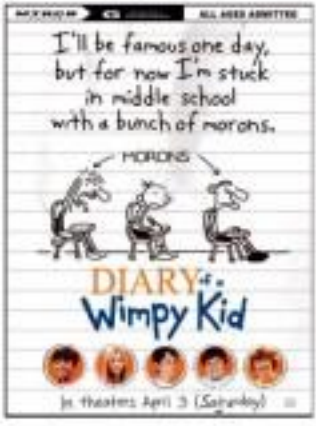
By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION Review and Classification Board ordered the month-long suspension of "Showtime" for "vulgar and obscene" comments made by guest judge Rosanna Roces.

In its decision released Friday, the MTRCB said Roces' comments during the Jan. 4 and 5 episodes of the talent show violated Sec. 3(C) of PD 1986. The section gives the Board the authority to stop "from airing on television, segments or scenes that are "immoral, indecent, contrary to law and/or good customs, injurious to the prestige of the country or its people."

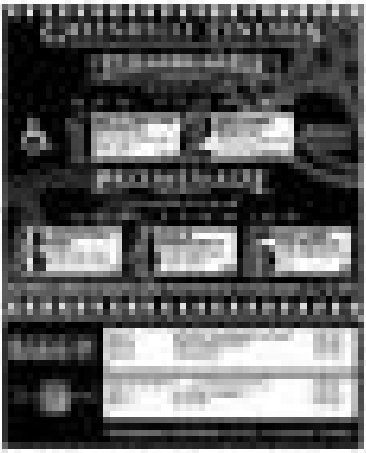
In January, Laguardia ordered a 20-day suspension on "Showtime" to prevent "further probable violations" of the MTRCB implementing rules and regulations.

In a statement, ABS-CBN, which produces and airs "Showtime," pointed out that the Board's recent decision was "not final and executory." Pending appeal, the network said "Showtime" will still be aired.



MOVIEWORLD

Bahkada Treats



MUST A MOVIE GUIDE

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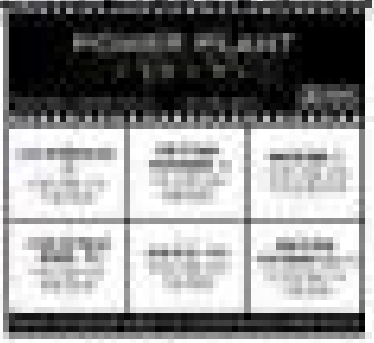

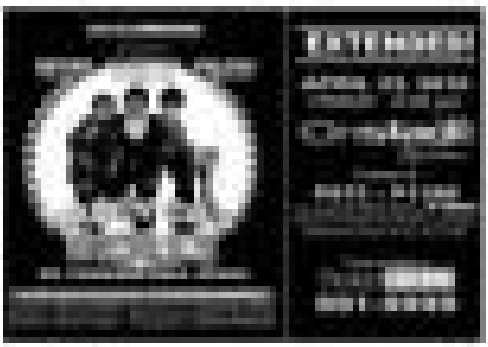

LUISA Mendez Marshall receives the Gawad Pagkilala award from UST Vice Rector Fr. Pablo Tiong and Alfi Ahmed during ceremonies presided by Ed Morales.

AWARD-WINNING director Chanto Mendoza in his trophy room

Like a sped-up film, our whirlwind visit to Manila

LOS ANGELES—A VISIT TO the trophy room in the home of internationally renowned Filipino director **Brillante "Boots" Mendoza** was one of the highlights of our recent homecoming trip to the Philippines.

"Eighteen years!" exclaimed several friends and colleagues in shock when I told them how long I've been away from my homeland. So, as soon as my wife Anne and I settled in our new digs, I found a pit bound for Manila. I exclaimed "Yeah!" to her with a glass of Chardonnay.

After about 30 hours, we landed and I was truly home. We stepped out into the sunshine and heat. My sentimental mal began, like a speed-up film. "Where's the embossed marching band?" I teased our friend, **Glee Claus**, who welcomed us.

Pulo Oyster!

As we drove out, I asked what the closest characters say remaining about with "Pulo Oyster" printed on them. Nobody knew how Metro Audrey evolved into Pulo Oysters.

"Nope!" I exclaimed. As our trip almost left soon it would be the first in a million and one "Oops!" I would say throughout my 24-day stay. But some collisions are no big deal in the Philippines, it turns out; it's coup of life.

I was tired and couldn't wait to shower but, hand know her priorities. We had to stop by designer **Oliver Tolentino**'s Jose Lorenzo Village shop to get Anne's Filipiniana dress for the Underwear of Interior Tower inaugural Ali Gamboa-pals Awards the following day.

Next, we picked up my brother **Bob** who is retired in the south. His best asset from Texas began—25 years. He said his hometown is hungry of "pulopok." "I think he wanted to say pusok-usok," but she never said anything.

Finally, we headed to my hotel, where we had three only to change clothes. Then we dropped by the Sony Music Philippines headquarters, where the prime valedictorian of Cebu, **Rocky Tuvera** and **Ms. Veronique** offered morning views of the skyline to the Cebuan area. The blonde's building used to be the only structure in the area—

ICONS: Bob Sanchez, Nida Silvestre Dee and Marivic Dizon of Sony BMG

Sentimental trip

The next day Saturday, March 13, was the big day—a sentimental trip back to the beloved old UST campus on España Street. Hardly we were inside the storied school grounds when—just said I felt sure that there to stress that I was about to tree-meet and first, sorry, I looked like a stick figure need food. It was not a case of mental anorexia nervosa, she claimed even.

Anyway, if this whole trip seemed to run at a rumpled speed, this afternoon and evening at St. Raymund's Building appeared to be even faster paced. Dong Ty-Sio and **Ego Mercado**, new former classmates, and Red and Nonoy **Peralta**, three trifecta organizers of this event honoring outstanding alumni of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, welcomed us at the entrance. Many students in their All students, still the same after all these years, extended a warm welcome.

More classmates showed up... Oso Mangubat-an Pedit, Marichu Mallago Ramos, Nida Lagrimas, nurse Maibel de los Reyes, Rene Enrico, and Isaias Hendri Marshall, who flew in from Canada to receive her General Ilagan citation in Entertainment. She is a performer and a TV talk show host in Vancouver.

I took the train to the second floor to view the exhibit on the seventies, which brought back memories of summer vacations looking at the bulletin board to see if I made it to the Faculty of Arts and Letters as a freshman, as well as the Dean's List college journal, or as a major in Communication Arts.

After dinner, the awards program began in the Plaza Auditorium, where our class used to stage a fabulous term (wink) shows aired on Radio Veritas. The Guadagnolo Program was well organized and did away with nonsense speeches. Two members brought the house down. It was our dear friend, the late Ambassador "Mike" C. Salvador, another inventive in Entertainment. **Brod Pete** is name, he hope to laughing with his antics. Wasn't intelligence in his humor.

Tina Turner act

We found, Epee had formed for weeks about how the sexy **Tina Turner** act of Lolas would go with the parents who would attend the program. So Tina came over the stage, bumping and grinding in she finished belting "Simply the Best."

The members also included ace editor Emmie Sebastian, Sunday Inquirer Magazine editor **Peterio Jacinto** de los Cruz and Cora Gamboa (husband Edwin), children Andrea Nicole and Basil Emile); Judge Oscar Herrera, Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Jose Javier Rev. Fr. Jose Ambrosio Antonello, Glenda Gloria, Lito Tavajan, Sandra Aguinaldo, Luisa Mendez-Marshall, Odon Barrios, Gene Apolinario, Lolita and Gene Turilo, Amelia Esperanza Fabon-Echevarria, Jose Garcia, **Cherie Villacorte**, Butch Francisco, Deon Nilo Dilema, Jaime Dy Buco, Ally Lira Lopez-Rosario, Noel Albano, Christine Gabriel, Dante Santiago, Emi Calixto-Rubinos, and their dreamers.

Right after the program, we headed to the weekend house of Anne's brother, Jun, and his wife Wy, in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. After a grand reunion with the Rodriguez clan the following morning, it was off to many meetings with old friends.

Perfect afternoon

We spent a perfect afternoon/evening lunch under the trees in the Tagaytay weekend home of Inquirer columnist **Miss Bonnet David** and her husband, Pic. We had opted to catch up with Rina, Dennis, Edsels, **Ms Rinis, Marian Martinez-Lucas**, and **Gus Tinio**, fellow Inquirer columnist whose vacation replies like heart instead of watching the Hoopin-Cotto fight.

My reunion with former Communication Arts classmates was a real fun, long lunch-ended dinner with many belly-aching jokes. It really was a wonder that we were not kicked out of the hotel room we rented for the night.

I finally got to visit the Inquirer office that I would only visualize for many years. Anne and I were treated by the senior members of the paper's top brass, led by president **Sandy Prieto-Romualdez**, publisher Gina Jocson and editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc. We finally met the Entertainment staff, including Brenda Inas Hagos, **Manuel Cruz** and **Nina Terrenal**. Zeus our fellow columnist Nestor Torre and Dolly Anne Carvajal joined us for the interview dinner purportedly no less than LIZ's personal chef. It was also good to see Lhyn Ramos, editor Thelma S. Sta. Ana again.

Beyond normal Dante Mendoza, who had just won yet another award, this time in the Miami International Film Festival. Emails started to go to his home, inappropriate, so off we went from thought it was quite late.

Dante led us into his trophy room, where we sipped coffee and tea. I made sure to see his Cannes' Best Director certificate, which is probably the most valued in the room. I also used **Quentin Tarantino**'s handwritten note to Dante in which the "Inglourious Basterds" director raved about "Kinatay."

With only a few hours of sleep, we left at dawn for a visit to our hometown, Calasiao, Pangasinan. We visited our childhood home in Colese, which was quite convenient for Alex and me. We dropped by our gentle school, where they were pondering a name in the honor of "My Home Still Good," Goodness, or Mother Mary Seton, the first Sisters of Mercy Elementary School?

We hurried the overdrawn hour to visit the graves of my father and other loved ones.

The next day, we found ourselves in Bolinao Park for **Sulit Sidmon**'s lavish welcome lunch for us and birthday bash for Gisella **Bodin**.

In the evening, we had energy left to reunite Norman Q. Flores to **Rachel Alejandro**, Alex Sagisaka, **Joel Trinidad** and the rest of the Philippine Star staff, and the Pinoy expatriate crop sun.

We spent the last two days of our short stay with Janet's family in Laguna and Tagaytay where we were to offer spa for the first time.

We left friends with jealous and thanks in summer the Crowne Mactan's. On our first night back in LA, I found my last smile—it's scary, as I dreamt of her telling to me again for the first time in many years. I don't remember what my mother was saying but it sounded very comforting. I think I made her happy just by going home again.

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RAOHS: Alejandro, Rowell Santiago, Milton Cajayon and Girlie Rodis with guests